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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT

Issue No 65
Available from Wednesday, December 3, 2008

WOOLIES WORRIES UNSETTLES TOWN

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ON THE WATER: Fascinating documentary on our shipbuilding past. Search 'sideways'

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Picture NATHALIE BANAIGS

SNAP UP A YEAR OF IMAGES

This is just one of 366 images of Faversham – captured everyday for a year – and which is proving one of the town's top Christmas presents this year.

A Year in the Life of Faversham was organised on a voluntary basis by resident Nathalie Banaigs, who is now preparing to embark on another year-long project which she hopes will become another valuable document of our town. Find out more inside. FULL STORY – PAGE 3.

BY **NICK AMES**

THE revelation Woolworths has gone into administration and could close has been greeted with dismay across Faversham.

The store is among the most successful for its size in the county and has been a feature of the town centre for more than 70 years. It is also the major convenience store for the area and is believed to employ around 30 people.

Shopper Sian Roberts from Faversham said: "This is awful news – and just before Christmas. I have been coming to this shop for as long as I can remember as it has such a range of items on sale.

"An empty shop just off the market square is just not what Faversham wants."

Other residents were upset because of the heritage of the store in Market Street.

Historian Dr Arthur Percival said he was hopeful a rescue package could be put together to keep "the wonder of Woolies" afloat.

Administrator Deloitte has said it expects to keep stores trading until the January sales are over – but Dr Percival would like to see something more concrete in place.

Dr Percival, an expert of Faversham and its history said: "Let's hope people have some sense and there are plans to save the store.

"As I understand it, the shop has been a feature of the town since the 30s and was extended a lot in the 60s. It's a huge store for such a small town and to be honest it's a bit of a lifeline. It's the only store like it in Faversham and to lose it would be an enormous blow.

"It's a nice place to wander round – I often just take a stroll around the store on my day off and usually end up buying something.

"It's also a part of the town's heritage and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

yourkenttv.co.uk

TOP TV CLIPS

1 Bob Geldof takes a trip to the seaside. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Geldof'.**

2 Threshold is a most intimate drama experience. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and see the leisure channel.**

3 The second part of an insight into Ashford cattle market. **See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'cattle'.**

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Picture: FAVERSHAM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

ILLUMINATIONS: Children's favourites Noddy and Big Ears switch on the Christmas lights

Noddy and Big Ears on hand to light up town for Christmas

BY **NICK AMES**

NODDY and Big Ears made a special guest appearance on stage on Saturday to help flick the switch on the town's festive illuminations.

A procession, which included Father Christmas on a Shepherd Neame vehicle, town dignitaries, the local Air Training Corps band and the Rotary Club float, started off the main parade which culminated in the turn-on in the Market Place.

Children's favourites Noddy and Big Ears assisted Santa in the grand switch on which was greeted by a large cheering crowd.

Almost two miles of electrical cables, 3,000 coloured bulbs, 30 individual features and 35 kilowatts of electricity all combined to give the town its festive air.

Stephen Sherlock, chairman of the Community Christmas Lights group said: "Noddy and Big Ears was a bit of a coup and added to the fun.

"This is always an important day for the town and each festive season the streets are zigzagged with several miles of cable carrying thousands of brightly coloured bulbs, while shop fronts are adorned with seasonal features and illuminated Christmas trees."

Schools and choirs sang carols at this year's event during the day, with the Gospel Mission Band giving a seasonal sound to the proceedings.

Graveney Primary School pupils also sang as did those from St Mary's, Faversham, Baddlesmere, Sheldwich and Luddenham.

Santa is visible at a number of places in the town – an illuminated face greets people arriving from the railway station while the old chap himself can be seen climbing into the chimney of the town's Guildhall.

The Alexander Centre has a Christmas tree on the porch roof and this has even got presents under it to complete the festive scene.

It takes a total of 1,050 man hours to build and remove the displays, which are in place until January 6.

Mr Sherlock added: "The centrepiece each year is the Market Place, with a huge tree dominating the square and strings of lights reaching it from every direction.

"Above the post office is a special seasonal greeting, turn another corner and find a larger than life Christmas candle."

The lights are organised by volunteers who first got together in 1983.

It receives some cash from the town council and Swale council but members are largely responsible for raising their own funds.

"All the hard work of erecting the displays is carried out by volunteers – often in cold and wet conditions," said Mr Sherlock

"Nevertheless the work goes ahead and a display is provided for all to enjoy."

Companies express interest in takeover

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

history – not to say an important place for those who work there."

Across the county there are 35 stores employing around 1,167 people.

Laurence Young of the Faversham Enterprise Partnership said: "For the store to close would be a blow to the town. It's a shame for the shoppers, those who work at the store and the town's history and tradition.

"Part of the strength of Faversham is its shopping diversity which makes its economy resilient – independent local stores alongside reputable chains. But for one of the latter to close is a blow indeed."

At the time Yourswale went to press, there were a number of companies expressing interest in the Woolworths chain. It is thought it could be sold as an on-going business – which may save many jobs and stores – or could be sold of in chunks; putting the future of various outlets at risk.

Among those believed to be in talks about a possible take over is millionaire businessman Theo Paphitis – best known for his role in TV show Dragons' Den.

He says he would keep the Woolworths name alive, if successful, and keep as many of the major high street stores open as possible.

Woolworths' retail operation slumped into adminstration last week.

The manager of the local store referred all enquiries made by Yourswale to head office.

Woolworths was founded in 1909 by American businessman Frank Woolworth, who already had a chain of "five and ten cent" stores in the USA.

Everything cost 6d – or 2.5p – or less and it was a huge success before losing much of the middle market in the last decades.

It is now widely considered to have lost its identity, leading to a decline in retail sales – which became drastic as the credit crunch took hold over the last few months.

BNP set for European and county elections

A BRANCH of the British National Party has been formed in Swale and members have vowed to fight the European and county council elections next year.

A spokesman said the party had obtained premises from which to run a campaign and intended to fight "every seat that comes up" and added the far right group was looking forward to the next general election.

In a recent leaked internet document the names and addresses and occupations of members of the BNP across the country was released.

These included 22 people from the Swale area, with the majority coming from Sittingbourne and Sheppey.

Picture perfect follow-up to town photo book

BY NICK AMES

A PHOTOGRAPHIC project, which includes a picture of Faversham taken on every day over a one-year period, is set to prove a popular stocking filler this year.

And the team behind the ambitious project say copies are flying off the shelves as they prepare to embark on their latest ambitious endeavour.

The book – A Year in the Life of Faversham – was organised on a voluntary basis by resident Nathalie Banaigs.

Boasting 366 photographs, as it included the leap year date of February 29, it includes images from every day from in and around the town and places such as Oare. The pictures span from July 2007 to June 2008.

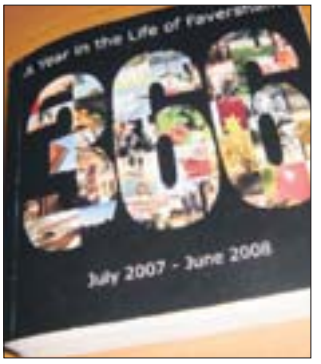
On sale at the Fleur de Lis centre, the author says the response so far has been great.

Ms Banaigs said "The book is a great tribute to Faversham and will make a fantastic Christmas present for friends and family."

Each photo – one for each day – shows a moment in time in the life of the area as seen by its people, showing different views and different perspectives. Photos feature places, landscapes, events and people.

Last week there were just ten copies left in what is already the second print run of the popular work.

Well-known landmarks are included but there are also unusual angles focusing on the town's buildings, roads and even pillar boxes.



Next year the intention is to run a similar scheme from the start of the calendar year – with the first pictures taken on January 1 and the last 365 days later.

A spokesman for the project said: "The innovative project of both artistic and historical value shows the Faversham of today portrayed by local photographers."

Along with an exhibition held earlier in the year the record has other benefits.

Theses include giving an opportunity for the Faversham Society and its Fleur de Lis museum to build on its existing photographic collection of Faversham with a range of contemporary images.

The submitted photos are now stored as a social and historical record, for future heritage purposes.

Profits from the book are to go to two charities, the Faversham Society and the Kent Wildlife Trust. Profits of £380 from sales at an earlier exhibition have already been donated to the charities.

HISTORICAL RECORD: Fascinating photographic account of town life

Crime down on Halloween and Fireworks Night

CRIMINAL damage fell by 30 per cent in Faversham during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period when compared to the same time a year ago, according to police.

Officers said they had also seen significant reductions in antisocial behaviour, particularly in respect of rowdy and nuisance activity by groups of young people.

They say this was due to an increased police presence in the town centre and at locations where research had shown there were likely to be problems.

The success of the operation was also due to the support of local shopkeepers who ensured responsible sale of fireworks and items like eggs and flour that are sometimes used to damage people's homes.

The local neighbourhood teams have also been continuing their crackdown on graffiti in the area, in response to the Partners and Community Together priorities recently raised by residents.

A number of young people have been arrested for graffiti offences, including one man who has been charged with causing over £600 of criminal damage involving 17 offences.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON
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Exhibition (see left) which launched the photo book. Search 'Faversham'

Planners set to make a decision on new homes

PLANS to build eight new homes in Boughton are to go before Swale council planners tomorrow.

They would involve demolition of an existing property in Horselees Road and the construction of new houses both detached and semi-detached along with garages and gardens. The area would also be landscaped.

The proposals have been recommended for approval by council officers as they say it fits in with the Swale Local Plan and the nature of the area.

However, Dunkirk parish council is objecting to the plans as members feel they are too ambitious for the site in question and could have a detrimental effect on local traffic.

A total of 17 letters of objection from residents in the immediate area have also been received.

Most focus on the fact that the plans are large scale for an area which the locals feel is compact.

Disturbances and impact on roads and services have also been spotlighted by people looking at the proposals.

Orange jackets to show up offenders during punishment

OFFENDERS carrying out unpaid work in public areas across Swale as part of their sentence will be required to wear bright orange high-visibility jackets from this week.

The move is part of a national scheme to improve public confidence in the justice system and came into force on Monday.

Offenders under the supervision of Kent Probation will now wear bright orange jackets branded with the Community Payback logo.

Offenders on Community Payback can be ordered by the courts to carry out unpaid work in the community such as picking up litter, renovating community centres and other public buildings, site clearance and unsightly graffiti removal.

In any given week of the year Kent Probation staff supervise around 1,000 offenders performing unpaid work as part of their community sentence.

Between April and October of this year, 143 Community Orders with a requirement to carry out Community Payback were made in Faversham, Sittingbourne and on the Isle of Sheppey, totalling 16,200 hours of work for charities, schools and organisations.

Offenders are currently working at the Rosemary Day Care Centre in Sheerness, ran by Age Concern. Teams of offenders are maintaining the gardens and making the outside more accessible to the service users by building timber decking.

Rita Hockley, Community Payback operations manager, said: "Community Payback is a highly visible punishment where offenders must work hard for the benefit of local communities, for no pay and at the expense of their free time.

"They are paying back for their crimes in a way that is highly visible to the public, enabling justice to be seen to be done."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Vicar set to get pie eyed for church fair

A BRAVE vicar will be in the firing line in Herne Bay on Saturday when shoppers have the chance to hurl custard pies at him.

The event is in aid of the annual Christmas fair at the Christ Church and Parish Hall in William Street.

The hall will be full of stalls selling cakes, toys, crafts, gifts, books and bric-a-brac. There will also be plenty of mince pies and mulled punch to tempt the bargain hunters between 10am and 1pm.

Model railway set to steam into Old Dairy

EAST Kent Model Railway Society (Whitstable) works up a head of steam at the Old Dairy in Church Street, on Saturday, (Dec 6), for another of its open days.

Model railways, old and modern, will be on display between 10am and 4pm at the society's clubhouse.

Chairman Nick Evans said: "We hold a couple of open days each year and we're lucky enough to have built up some loyal followers. As we head for Christmas, the display will no doubt inspire some great ideas for presents."

Free drop-in centre for hard of hearing

FREE hearing aid maintenance is available at a drop-in clinic run by hard-of-hearing charity Hi Kent.

Hi Kent works with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community and is running another of its popular clinics for hearing aid users at its Canterbury centre at 46 Northgate.

People with NHS hearing aids can visit without appointment and get their hearing aids cleaned and re-tubed, and collect fresh batteries free of charge. The next drop-in session will be held tomorrow, December 4, from 2pm to 4pm.

Art collection made just for Christmas

AN ART collective is offering a selection of unique, handmade gifts in the run up to Christmas at the Beaney Institute.

Artists and craftsmen from the district will be displaying their wares at the upstairs gallery on Canterbury High Street.

Made in Canterbury can be found in the special exhibitions gallery on the first floor of the Beaney on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Friday, December 5 to Christmas, plus Monday 22 and Tuesday 23.

Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm.

Why Gregory's Girl is still top of the class for many

BY GARETH ARNOLD

CULT classic Gregory's Girl is the greatest school movie of all time, according to a leading authority on film and TV at Christ Church University.

But his vote was not enough to lift it into the top spot in a major nationwide survey of the best school-based movies ever made.

A recent poll carried out by Teachers' TV – a digital channel aimed at educators – was topped by Dead Poets' Society starring Robin Williams, but Dr Ken Fox, a principal lecturer of film, radio and television in the department of media, says 1981 classic Gregory's Girl remains his personal favourite.

Dr Fox said: "It is difficult not to break into a smile every time I think of Gregory's Girl. It is such a wonderful, gentle comedy of adolescent manners.

"I'm delighted to see it on the all-time school movies list. What makes the film such a great school movie is that in the best sense Gregory's Girl is less about school as an institution and more about how school is part of the network of contact points for the adolescent hormonal revolution to take place.

"The film is done with such wit and charm that it works like a bittersweet memory of our own secondary school days when unrequited love was the only thing on the curriculum."

Gregory's Girl made a star of John Gordon Sinclair, as it charted his efforts to win the heart of classmate Dorothy. It also starred Altered Images and Red Dwarf star Clare Grogan.

Dr Fox, who is a doing a research project on how teaching is represented in films, was asked to contribute to Teachers' TV's Top Ten Great School Movies programme which will be screened on December 9.

Speaking about his research, Dr Fox said: "The project, run jointly with Dr Andrew Lambirth from the department of primary education, is an exploration of the ways in which teaching practices are represented through film.

"We look at how the art of teaching can be challenged and developed by dramatic representations of teaching, learning and knowledge."

Trainee teacher, Stephanie Renn, who is currently studying a PGCE at the university, was also interviewed as part of the programme.

She flagged up Grease as her all time favourite school film, ranked number seven in the overall league table.

BRIT CLASSIC: Gregory's Girl has been voted one of the top ten school-based films of all time in a poll of teachers

NUMBER ONE SPOT: Dead Poets' Society

Did your favourite make the top ten?

TEACHERS' TV received nearly 2,500 votes from teachers, students and pupils with more than 100 movies shortlisted for the poll.

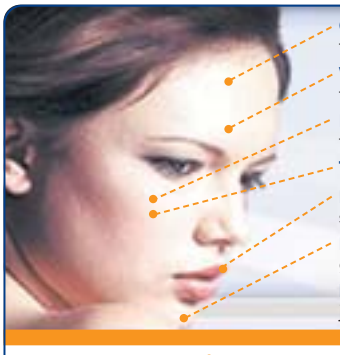
Trainee teacher, Stephanie Renn, at Christ Church said of her personal favourite Grease: "The school setting is perfect for a musical, as demonstrated by the High School Musical franchise, which is essentially a modern version of Grease.

"Even though the actors are all years past school-age, there is a great sense of fun and positivity in Grease, which I hope a lot of people would associate with their days in education."

Teachers' TV's Top Ten Great School Movies will be screened on December 9.

The top ten movies were:

1. Dead Poets' Society
2. Kes
3. School of Rock
4. The Breakfast Club
5. History Boys
6. To Sir With Love
7. Grease
8. Ferris Bueller's Day Off
9. Gregory's Girl
10. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie



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Picture: TIM STUBBINGS

CONTRASTS: A new photographic exhibition investigates the copper-coloured tones of people with ginger hair

Red heads in focus at exhibition

BY **GARETH ARNOLD**

VISITORS to the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable were seeing red last Saturday with a unique live photographic event to document those with ginger hair.

The man behind the project, entitled Red Headz, is local photographer Tim Stubbings.

A commercial photographer by trade, Mr Stubbings – a red head himself – has long wanted to investigate the unique coloration and plans an exhibition based on Saturday's session for summer next year.

He said: "People have asked me whether this is some sort of ginger crusade, but it's not. I'm just a photographer looking for a personal project to do, and as a red head myself, I've always wanted to record the hair colour as it's not an everyday subject.

"We are a minority in the population. Also, if you believe what the scientists say, genetically we're a dying breed so I think it's important to document red hair.

"It's amazing what I have discovered about red heads since starting this project. There is no such thing as a typical 'red' head; there is a massive amount of variation in shade and colour.

"Red heads are always getting torn into, getting called ginger nut and carrot top at school and things like that. And only three per cent of the population have red hair, so it's even more important to record it."

The event also brought in the experts from two other Whitstable businesses. Robert Mitchell Hair Studio supplied the stylist for the shoot, as well as offering colouring expertise, and luxury chocolatiers Coco offered gallery visitors sizzling red-hot chilli chocolate goodies.

Mr Stubbings is one of Canon UK's preferred suppliers of corporate photography, and his commercial clients include design and PR agencies, local government, charities and universities.

A finalist of the 2004 London Photographic Awards, he launched his professional career in the early 1990s after graduating from the University of Kent. The live session coincides with Mr Stubbing's current exhibition which ends today at the Horsebridge Centre, entitled Retrospective.

As the name suggests, the display looks back over a whole variety of work, with a mixture of people, seascapes, landscapes and documentary photos taken over the last few years.

Kris on song in LA

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A HERNE Bay singer songwriter has won the best international artist award at this year's Los Angeles' Music Awards.

Kris Searle moved to America after losing his record deal in the UK. Now he is building a fan base in the US where his brand of British rock pop has proved to be a hit.

The 27-year-old said: "It was one of the most incredible nights I have ever had."

Log-on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Kris' to see the artist in conversation with our reporter Jane Connolly.

yourswale

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dustmen overcome by poisonous fumes

DUSTBIN men on their round in Beltinge were hospitalised last week after suffering a reaction to vapours given off when a bin was emptied into a dustcart.

The two men were later released with no lasting injury, but the poisoning has prompted an angry response from the city's waste managers. Especially as it forced the dustcart off the road for several days to be decontaminated.

The council's street scene manager, Chris Wallis, said: "Although the cause of the vapours is unknown, we think it was the result of a reaction between bleach and an acidic compound.

"We'd like to remind people that liquids should not be put into wheelie bins, especially those whose containers carry the hazardous waste signs, such as bleach. The plastic containers these liquids come in can be put into the clear recycling sacks, provided they have been thoroughly washed out."

The dustcart had to be decontaminated and was off the road for a few days, causing some disruption to collections.

Memorial service for Argyll sniper 'Jimmy'

THE memorial service for Lance Corporal James Johnson, a soldier of 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders killed in action in Afghanistan, took place on Friday.

The service took place at All Saints Church, Canterbury with 200 soldiers from his regiment marching to the church to mark the death of their comrade.

LCpl James 'Jimmy' Johnson, who trained as a sniper, was killed on patrol when a mine exploded.

Army colleagues described LCpl Johnson as "an extremely fit man who put others to shame with his ability to burn the candle at both ends and still perform."

Reward for information on stolen street signs

FIVE metal signs have been stolen from an estate in Whitstable.

The metal signs with the wording 'private estate' and 'keep dogs on leads' were taken from Preston Parade and St Mary's Grove in the Granville Cliffe estate area.

Community support officer Aaron Newell said: "The signs were put up by the estate committee after problems.

"They are of little monetary value and the estate committee will consider a reward for any information that leads to an arrest."

Anyone with any information can contact Aarron Newell at Whitstable police station on 07772 226198.

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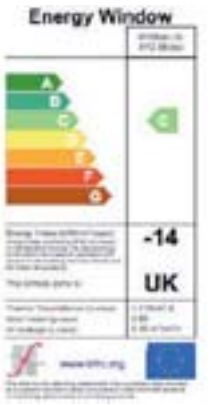

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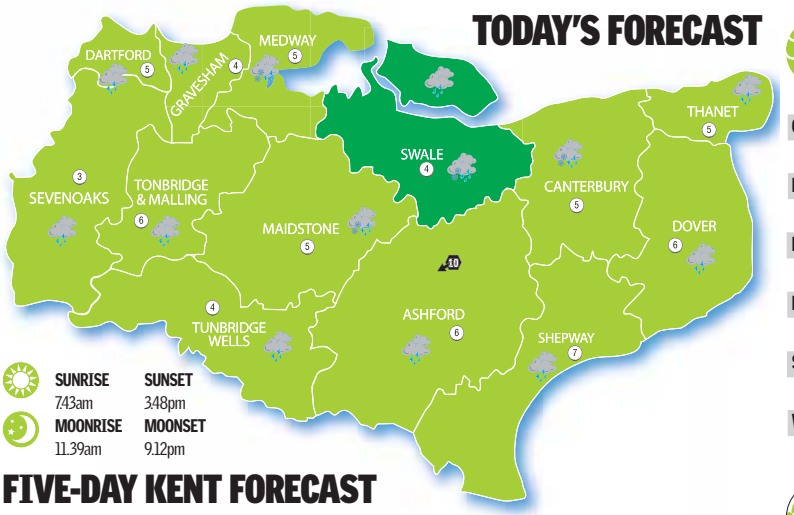

SUNRISE 7.43am SUNSET 3.48pm
MOONRISE 11.39am MOONSET 9.12pm

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	6°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Dartford	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Faversham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	5°C	6°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Gravesend	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Maidstone	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Ramsgate	5°C	5°C	8°C	7°C	7°C
Rochester	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Sevenoaks	4°C	3°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Sittingbourne	6°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	8°C
Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C
Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	8°C	8°C	7°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:38pm	5.2m
	Sunday	5:27pm	5.0m
Dover	Saturday	2:46pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:42pm	5.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:40pm	6.6m
	Sunday	3:30pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:16pm	4.2m
	Sunday	4:12pm	4.1m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	5:16pm	4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:30pm	4.7m
	Sunday	5:24pm	4.5m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	5°C	Madrid	6°C
Athens	17°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	12°C	Paris	5°C
Beijing	12°C	Rome	16°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	31°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	5°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	12°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	10°C
Las Palmas	19°C	Wellington	19°C

SUPPORT: SMC are giving support to Demelza House

Help hospice and get a free safety check

MOTORISTS are being offered the chance of a free safety check for their cars if they make a donation to Demelza House.

The SMC service centre in Crown Quay Lane, Sittingbourne, is offering drivers a free 30-point vehicle safety check worth £14.99, in return for a donation to the Sittingbourne-based Demelza Hospice Care for Children charity. The campaign runs from now until the end of December.

Demelza is the only children's residential hospice in Kent, providing a wide range of services to life-limited children.

This year it is celebrating its tenth anniversary and is appealing to the public to fill up clown collection cards and collection boxes with £1 coins. These will be on every service reception desk in SMC's MG, Mitsubishi and Ford dealerships in Sittingbourne.

Donna Wells, from Demelza, said: "We are grateful to SMC for their support. We are celebrating our tenth birthday this year and still rely almost entirely on the support of the community to provide our vital services."

Mick Austin, service manager of SMC, advised motorists to, "take action now to steer clear of trouble later on in the depths of winter. Prepare properly for the rough months ahead."

yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

CHERYL TAYLOR

The manager of Christmas card stalls raising funds for charities in Swale, which are run as part of national organisation Cards for Good Causes, spoke to **Nick Ames** about her seasonal and fun work.

Q Which charities do you support?

A Lots – they include ones for children, older people, medical research, disability charities and several others, such as the lifeboats and Mencap.

Q Where can people buy the cards?

A I usually run the stall at Faversham library and there is also an outlet – but a bit smaller – at the library in Sittingbourne.

Q It's rather a seasonal job isn't it?

A Yes – we operate ten weeks a year from 10am to 4pm on Monday to Saturday. I started this year on October 21 and I'll be in Faversham until December 17.

Q How did the Cards for Good Causes charity originate?

A It came about in 1959 when James Jackson of the British Diabetic Association gathered a group of medical charities together to discuss publicity for selling fund-raising cards.

In 1964 they started selling cards from empty stores and things just got bigger. The current arrangements and name were adopted later and today we are the largest multi-charity Christmas card group in the UK.

The cards are an important source of funding for many charities and the money we raise enables them to do work they might otherwise not be able to undertake. So it is extremely worthwhile and satisfying to do what I do.

Q How much of the cash you raise actually goes to charities?

A We donate 79p in every £1 as a minimum. Last year a total of £7 million went to charities, which I think is very good.

Q What about the cards themselves?

A Our cards are designed in the main by professional artists and include the work of some of the greatest painters who have ever lived. All designs are carefully chosen and printed on quality card.

Q Do your stalls sell anything else?

A We have a range of Christmassy goods. There are advent calenders, napkins, wrapping paper and gift tokens as well.

Q What is your role?

A I'm the manager of the branch and I do it every year. I do all the ordering and the back-up work but I do have a group of dedicated volunteers working alongside me. They come from all the charities across Swale and I have people from further afield as well, such as the Kent Air Ambulance Trust.

Q Do you enjoy it?

A Yes of course – it's great fun. I can arrange the stall and at times we'll make decorations and dress up. All across the country there are 350 temporary charity shops and as well as in the libraries they are in churches, community centres, tourist information offices and museums. In total we help over 320 local and national good causes.

Q Can people get the cards online?

A Yes you can order them from our website www.cardsforcharity.co.uk and we will normally send them off within 48 hours. You can see the cards clearly on screen, chose the ones you like and let us know. The site also has more details about the cards and our work as well as details of the nearest place you can physically go and get them.

Q So when you set up I suppose it is a sign to people that Christmas is on the way?

A Yes that's right – and it does seem to put people in a good mood.

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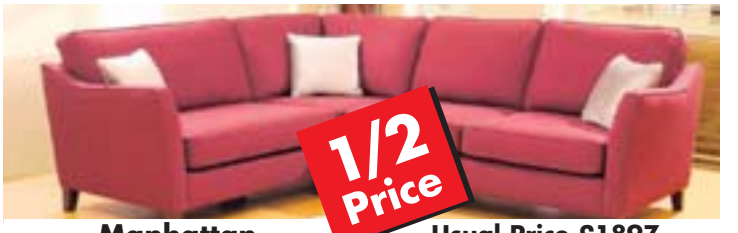

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NASONS

KOS Media's managing director Paul Stannard talks about the launch of our £1 Million Business Challenge 2009. Search 'challenge'

Union members in Dover take to the streets to stop lorries in a dispute over jobs at the docks. Search 'strike'

Discover the history of one of the county's most famous cattle markets. Search 'cattle'

Why boats had to be launched sideways at one historic dockyard. Search 'sideways'

A new state-of-the-art café opens for business at the end of one of the county's best-loved piers. Search 'pier'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at... yourkenttv.co.uk

PLAYTIME: From left, Elmo, High School Musical sing-along microphone, FurReal Tumbles, Wall-E, Guitar RockStar, Buzz Lightyear, Clone Wars helmet, and below, Mack and Lightning McQueen

Present buying is child's play

KOS Media and Kent's largest shopping centre have come up with a list of the hottest toys this festive season for parents looking for inspiration.

With help from Bluewater shops John Lewis and the Disney Store, we tried and tested the top gifts that are going to be flying off the shelves this Christmas.

You can see the toys in action in a video clip on Yourkenttv.

The Disney store offers great toys inspired by their famous films and TV programmes.

The release of Disney's High School Musical 3: Senior Year, in October, had youngsters booking their cinema seats weeks in advance.

The High School Musical Sing-along Microphone, priced at £10, will give wannabe Zach and Vanessa's the chance to practice the film's hit songs anywhere and anytime.

Youngsters who prefer engines to musicals will enjoy the Radio Controlled Mack and Lightning McQueen, £20, from the Disney film Cars.

BY **ANNA WHITE**

The infra-red remote-controlled model of loveable character Wall-E, which costs £20, is also expected to be a top-seller.

Despite Disney film Toy Story being released in 1995, Buzz Lightyear remains a firm favourite this Christmas. The talking version of the animated toy superhero appears on the most-wanted list, for £15.

John Lewis offer gifts for youngsters and adults, making it the perfect destination to tick off the majority of your Christmas list.

For children wanting a pet dog but without having to train or clean it, the FurReal Tumbles my rollover pup will allow them to love and care for it just as they would a real dog. The fluffy animal, which costs £29.95, rolls over and listens to commands.

Elmo from the children's TV programme Sesame Street, can share his stories and jokes with lucky youngsters this Christmas.

The life-like Elmo Live moves when he speaks and interacts with his owner. He is £59.95 from John Lewis.

Music-lovers can practice their guitar moves on the road or entertain at a family get-together during the festive season with the Guitar RockStar, for £14.99.

To complete the list, fans of the Star Wars movies can look and sound like one of the Clone Wars Troopers, for £29.99, with a voice-changing helmet.

The authentic mask helmet features popular phrases and a radio static button to help achieve the full affect.

Bluewater Christmas opening hours are 10am to 10pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm on Saturday, and 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

Order online at www.johnlewis.com or www.disney-store- shopping.co.uk.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON
yourkenttv.co.uk
Your LOCAL TV ONLINE

Anna White tries out all the toys for herself. Search 'toys'

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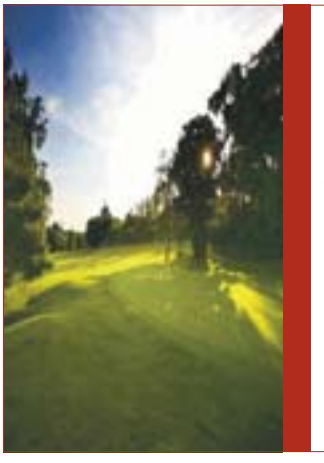

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Little Darlings and Lost Boys of pantomime

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

CHILDREN from the Liz Burville Performing Arts Centre will be flying high in Dartford this Christmas.

An integral part of Peter Pan, the Orchard Theatre's pantomime, the young actors from the Bexley centre will be bringing the magic to life as the Darling family, the Lost Boys and other characters.

Principal Liz Burville has been involved with the Orchard's Christmas shows for about 20 years, either as a dancer, choreographer or provider of talented young performers.

"The children are all very excited," she said. "Most of them are quite experienced, which is probably why we are asked to take part each year.

"The children get very involved in rehearsals and it is a bit more demanding this year, particularly for the four boys playing Michael and John Darling."

The key characters were handpicked by the show's director and star, comedian Joe Pasquale, and rehearsals got under way on November 24. Aged between six and 13, the children show remarkable discipline and talent for ones so young.

During performances the young cast are looked after by chaperones who are mostly parents of students. Some regularly offer their services, even if their own children are not appearing in the show.

"The chaperones have as much fun as the kids," Ms Burville said. "When there is a break between two performances, they go out and Dartford gets hit by a bevy of excited children, singing all the songs from the shows. They're good kids and they do as they're told."

For Ms Burville, the opportunity to take part in the show is not only great fun for her students, but can also be an inspiration for other children in the area.

"It's especially good for the local schools, who will have received leaflets about the pantomime," she said. "It's really exciting to think that these kids can be in a high-profile production and other children can come along and enjoy it too, particularly as they can see people they know appearing in it."

Like many people who help to keep Kent's pantomime tradition alive, Ms Burville believes that providing children with a good first experience of theatre will affect them for the rest of their lives.

"Once a child has been exposed to live theatre, hopefully they will want to see more of it," she said.

REHEARSALS: Liz Burville (right) says the children at her performing arts centre are rehearsing hard

• **Peter Pan is running at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from this Friday until Sunday January 11. To book tickets call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.**

Don't miss Captain Hook's online look behind the scenes as the cast prepares for this year's pantomime.
Actor Alex Giannini reveals all online

Family and friends give thanks for a 'wonderful' man

TRIBUTES were paid to former KCC leader Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart during a thanksgiving service at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart, who stepped down as council leader in 2005, died on August 14 after a long battle with cancer.

Hundreds of friends, family members, former colleagues and politicians gathered for the cathedral service.

REMARKABLE: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

Michael Howard, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said Lord Bruce-Lockhart had a "remarkable" political career.

After the service, Labour MP Ruth Kelly described him as "absolutely wonderful", adding she had a good working relationship with him, in spite of their different political backgrounds. "He wanted to do what was right," she said.

Local government minister John Healey said: "He was a great figure in local government. In many ways he had so much more to offer to the country."

The service was led by the Very Rev Robert Willis, the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, and there were readings by Harriet Creelman, Lord Bruce-Lockhart's niece, and old friend Chris Gosling.

Lord Bruce-Lockhart became a county councillor for Maidstone Rural East in 1989. He led KCC for eight years from 1997, was knighted in 2002, made chairman of the Local Government Association in 2004 and became a life peer in 2006.

In 2007 he was appointed chairman of English Heritage.

yourswaleschools

SPANISH LESSON: Pupils from Borden Grammar School stayed with Spanish families in Malaga during their trip

Pupils enjoy the taste of Latino living

■ BY **NICK AMES**

TWENTY sixth-formers from Borden Grammar School recently returned from a highly successful trip to Malaga in Spain where they sampled the Latin lifestyle.

The year 13 boys stayed with Spanish families and attended lessons in a local secondary school during the visit.

Those in year 12 stayed in a hotel and had a comprehensive package of excursions, including a visit to Nerja with its world-famous caves, a day-trip to Seville and half a day in a school.

All those who participated said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and felt their command of Spanish had been enhanced.

Dan Holl, the head of languages at the Sittingbourne school, said the trip brings to life the language learnt in the classroom and is a great motivation boost.

He said: "The whole thing made such an impression on the pupils that went out and has really enhanced their understanding of the language and culture of Spain.

"They are so much more motivated in the classroom after their experiences.

"Those that stayed with a family did so for five days and for the first 24 hours for the majority of them it was a case of being all at sea.

"They couldn't get a grip about what was going on at all – but then hour upon hour their understanding began to improve. So by the end they had improved immensely."

Some pupils have vowed to return to the country in the summer holidays.

Mr Holl said: "They loved the lifestyle and want to attend a street fair which is held in Malaga every year. A party which takes place over five days should be a great experience for them."

The year 13 students are now eagerly awaiting the return visit of the Spanish students to Sittingbourne in February.

Mr Holl added: "Malaga in the sunshine seems like a good deal as opposed to Sittingbourne in winter – but the Spanish students love the idea of coming to an English grammar school in the rural Kent countryside. It's a contrast to their inner-city school.

"It's a real change for them and they also really like the day in London we set up for them."

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BREAK TIME

Youngsters turn a over new leaf with reading volunteer

SITTINGBOURNE Community College is celebrating the achievements of one of its staff in the field of promoting literacy.

Book enthusiast Brian Robinson, who has worked with the college and Bredgar Primary School for more than nine years, spends a lot of time helping young people to read.

Alan Barham, headteacher at the college, said: "Brian has entertained and read with many students and is particularly keen on raising the profile of reading and the enjoyment of stories to improve literacy levels across Swale.

"A selfless character, who loves the rewarding side of the reading experience, Brian has built a huge amount of respect from both staff and students over time."

There are other volunteers who give up their time to come and help and support the learning experience of the students at the college, but they are always looking for more.

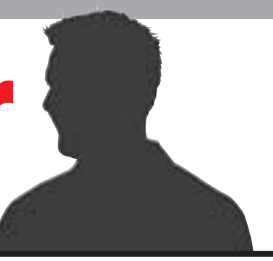
WELL READ: Brian Robinson with young readers from Sittingbourne Community College

Anyone who is retired and would like to put something back into the community through wealth of experience, can contact staff via www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk or by calling 01795 472449.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

yourswaleblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...



Salvation from any more shame is well worth it

THE impending departure of Woolworths from our high streets is a remarkable turn of events.

Yet, perhaps in this day and age, it is more remarkable that a shop has survived in such a competitive market when such a huge amount of its floor space was taken up by the humble pick and mix. Or should that be Pick 'n' Mix.

I'm no economics expert, but surely a trade based on what were once known as penny chews cannot be a big money earner today?

When I was young, every newsagent would have big jars of sweets and for a few pennies you could secure a 'quarter' of what took your fancy. I'm not sure I ever knew what the quarter was of – some sort of weight, that much I was certain of – but when it resulted in me getting a paper bag full of fizzy cola bottles, I was the last to seek clarification, I assure you.

But then things changed in the sweet market. Woolies made it a help yourself affair. There was none of this shopkeeper weighing up the bags business after carefully scooping a load of liquorice allsorts onto the scales. Oh no.

Now you grabbed a paper sack and tipped as many chocolate buttons coated in hundreds and thousands, or – if you were after quality over quantity – those nice chocolate covered nuts, as you could and got in the queue.

Then, while trying to act cool, you experienced that all important sensation which would occur again and again into adulthood. But that first time – well it was a particular type of stomach churning humiliation; discovering what you thought would cost one price actually cost about triple the amount.

Still without an idea of the measurement system after the quarter confusion, I would shovel the sweets in willy-nilly, thinking to myself just how on earth could these cost more than the shiny 50p I clutched in my mitts.

Lo and behold, a quick weigh and £1.29 would flash up. Not a lot in today's money, but practically a month's (pocket) money then.

Of course, I couldn't bring myself to say "listen, mate, I've misjudged this, I'm off to tip most of these back, oh, and I cannot believe you're not being prosecuted for what is effectively daylight robbery", no. Instead, I'd go redder than the artificial colouring in the sweets and be forced to spend most of my life's savings to bail me out and save further blushes. Little wonder I grew up with so many hang-ups.

Same with the cinema. Today, I take my children and I ensure they never repeat the mistake I made, by withdrawing 50 quid before I even set foot in the complex. Sure enough by the time three bags of sweets, some popcorn and drinks have been precariously carried to our seats, that money has disappeared.

And again, it is a pick 'n' mix which lies at the centre of the scandal.

Of course, I'm sorry to hear of Woolworths' predicament. But if it means future generations never fall victim to the sweet miscalculation then it's impending death will not have been in vain.

• EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

We want to hear your views

EMAIL: Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

TEXT: SWALE then your message to: 81800 (please remember to include you name)

LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Chris Britcher, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourswale, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

• We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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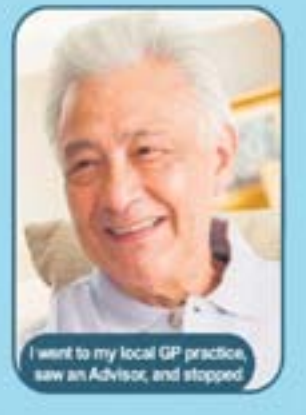
We stopped smoking at my local pharmacy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WIN Get festively fruity with Anchor

'TIS the season to eat, drink and be merry, and here's a great way to get started.

Anchor Real Dairy Cream has teamed up with KOS Media, publishers of this newspaper, to give one lucky reader the chance to win everything they need to make some delicious fruity treats over the festive season.

You'll have all you need for you and your festive little squirts to get cooking, including; a complete baking set for kids, a kid's cook book, a smoothie maker, some great festive jelly moulds, plus some aprons so you and the kids can get as creative as you like with all your favourite fruits.

And as if that wasn't enough, you'll also receive some Anchor Real Dairy Cream to get everyone into the Christmas spirit.

Created especially for the yuletide season, there are three delicious Limited Edition flavours of Anchor Real Dairy Cream this Christmas, just the thing to cover everyone's taste.

There's Anchor Extra Thick with Brandy Real Dairy Cream, a favourite with dads, Anchor Extra Thick Real Dairy Cream, a luxury treat for all occasions and Anchor Chocolate Flavour Mousse, the perfect way to make fruit fun for kids over the Christmas period.

All three flavours go deliciously well with your favourite seasonal winter fruits and there's never been a better time to get festively fruity now Anchor has launched its 'We Love Festive Little Squirts' campaign bursting with easy to prepare recipes.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Anchor Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is December 12, 2008.

Question: Which flavour of Anchor Real Dairy Cream will be a favourite with dads this Christmas?

a) Anchor Extra Thick with Brandy Real Dairy Cream

b) Anchor Extra Thick Real Dairy Cream

c) Anchor Chocolate Flavour Mousse

For more fruity recipe ideas to try with your festive little squirts see www.anchorsquirtymoments.co.uk.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Eastern and Coastal Kent Health and Social Care NHS
Joint Approach to Urgent Care

NHS
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Trialling extended hours for Blood Test services at the Sheppey Community Hospital and Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital

The NHS in eastern and coastal Kent is pleased to announce a temporary extension of availability and opening hours of blood test services at the following hospitals:

Sheppey Community Hospital at Plover Road, Minster on Sea
and
Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital at Bell Road, Sittingbourne

The extended blood test service will be open at both of the above hospitals on **Saturday mornings** to test the demand and impact of providing extended Phlebotomy Department opening hours.

This extended temporary service is available on Saturdays for 16 weeks from **Saturday 6th December 2008 until Saturday 21st March 2009 with an exception of Saturday 27th December and Saturday 3rd January 2009**
The extended opening hours during this trial period will be from **9.00am to 11.30am**

A blood test, during the extended service, will be available as part of your investigations when referred by a GP, Consultant or Healthcare professional

After the 16 week trial period the number of people using the extended services will be assessed to see if this service should be available for longer hours in the long term as it is hoped that this temporary extension will give patients improved access that require this service

For further information contact:
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EMAIL: Email your letters to us at yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

TALK TIME

SUSAN HUGHES

The manager of Swale-based charity Staying Put talks about the satisfaction of helping people to stay in their homes

Tell us a little about yourself
I have been working in the Staying Put scheme for nearly 14 years. I started as a case worker, doing 15 hours a week, and now I am the manager.

What first interested you in the Staying Put service?
It is a challenging job and I really get a buzz out of being able to help people. I think it is such a good service and helps so many people that I love promoting it.

What is the most interesting aspect of your job?
You do see some very sad situations that people have to cope with in their lives. Finding the funding to help them, or a solution to their housing problem, is what we are all about though.
It can get quite tiring, especially as I want to help everyone get a better life, but it is very rewarding to see the end result when you have managed to help them and improve their living conditions.
Also, I get such a buzz when I manage to obtain extra funding for the service so that we can help more people.

What do you hope you can achieve in the future?
I am very proud of the extras I have managed to obtain for the scheme, such as the handyperson service.
I am always looking for ways to improve the service.

What do you like to do when you're not working?
After a challenging day I find it hard to turn off and relax, but in the last couple of years I have taken up playing squash to help with this.
Although I'm not very good, it does relieve some of the stress and keeps me fit at the same time.

• The Staying Put service can be contacted on 01795 417131.

YOUR LETTERS

tart by listening to those who use it

Despite the Long Bridge being depressing to use, I am relieved the plans to close it have been dismissed.

There was very strong opposition to the panelling when it was initially raised. Then once that was installed, CCTV cameras were suggested.

Had Network Rail taken heed of those who use it and implemented their ideas, the bridge would more than likely not be in the state it is now.

I understood from the community officer, when crossing the bridge with him some weeks back, that it was to be repainted the very next week. However, that is not what happened.

I am sorry to say Network Rail is very lackadaisical with regards to the safety of bridge users.

The steps at the recreation ground end are treacherous due to fallen leaves and when we have bad weather and freezing conditions the bridge becomes an ice rink.

I wait to see what Network Rail will do, if anything, as it would appear it is passing the buck to the police.

Name and address withheld

COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourswale before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourswale.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

A possible solution

It seems to me that graffiti on the Long Bridge is not a serious crime, not as upsetting as smashed windows or pushed-over walls.

Could the people who work on community service punishment be used to clean off all the graffiti every week until September 2009?

The Big Draw is a national event and if the bridge was open for a week in October the artists could do their thing in the public eye and probably hundreds of people would come and watch them.

My experience of community punishment is "We can't chide these. We can't paddle those" etc.

An organised cleaning project will benefit everybody.

John Breeze, Faversham

Man of conviction

May I take this opportunity to say how much I respected Andrew Rowe and his stands during the Thatcher years.

At a time when the Conservative Party seemed to consist entirely of yes men, he was one of the few who had the courage to oppose divisive policies and stand up for the rights of minorities.

Any politician who acts on his own instinct and doesn't just follow the herd has to be respected and Mr Rowe was certainly a man of conviction.

Miles Brand, Faversham

Do me a flavour...

Jonathan Neame is quite right to have a go at the Government and its policies on alcohol.

His company promotes excellent quality traditional beer and I'm sure that most of its pubs are trouble-free.

The Government seems to think that by raising taxes on alcohol it will also cut down nuisance. But the majority of

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drunken offences are committed by people who have swilled down cheap foreign lager or those dreadful alcopops.

Why not put up tax on rubbish drink and keep it down on decent beer? That way people with taste would be rewarded and those who drink rubbish would be hit in the pocket.

Phil Kenton, Faversham

No place for party

Faversham has just four members of the BNP you reported last week – but that is still four too many.

This so-called far-right party is little more than the National Front in suits and has absolutely nothing to say in a modern multicultural society.

Jacqueline Stone, by email

We must be careful

It's good to see that a new company is set to invest in Faversham, but do we really need a chain here? We have managed to resist much that has led to Britain's high streets becoming virtually indistinguishable.

And although Ask is a quality company, let's not allow our town centre – with its market, Guildhall and specialist shops – to become home to a lot of identikit coffee shops and chain stores.

It's all very well having new investment, and good news, too, but let's keep our individual character.

Helen Foreman, by email

VAT cut will be costly

Has the Government realised what its small drop in VAT means to shopkeepers? I know they won't suffer financially, but what about the time spent in re-labelling every single product they sell in order to display the new prices. It's not a question of just subtracting it from the till as most do not allow you to deduct half a per cent.

Any benefit to shoppers will be lost when they are forced to wait ten minutes while assistants work out the new prices – or while they are busy scurrying round the store putting altered prices on everything.

Terry Pardue, by email

Dogs need protection

Dogs used as weapons are becoming increasingly popular with urban gangs. Indeed, the RSPCA saw a fifteen-fold increase in the number of complaints about dog fighting between 2004-07.

These dogs can suffer terrible injuries through fighting or cruelty, including violence inflicted by owners. The RSPCA is urging your readers to lobby their MP and ask them to put their name forward for the Private Members' Bill ballot on December 11.

See www.giveanimalsavoice.org.uk for more information. Readers could also write to Defra Minister Jane Kennedy MP, asking her to update the law. RSPCA centres are bulging with unwanted 'status' dogs such as bull breeds and bull terrier crosses.

We need to act now to alleviate this crisis and consolidate the law to protect dogs and humans.

Paul Stilgoe, regional superintendent, RSPCA

EU's cruise control

Last week you reported on how booze cruises are to be hit by new limits after a vote in the European Parliament.

At a time when it is becoming clear current lifestyles are almost impossible to maintain, do these over-zealous EU bureaucrats not realise they are just heaping misery on top of misery.

Not only will people not be able to bring back drinks and tobacco in the quantity they would like to, but jobs will be lost as a result of this legislation when cross-Channel traffic drops off. I wish petty officials of the EU would find something better to do than trying to destroy yet another British tradition.

Roger Andrews, Sittingbourne, by email

Uncomfortable truth

With the cold winter weather, many readers might feel in need of some warming comfort foods.

But many traditional comfort foods can be high in fat, which is bad news for the waistline.

Putting on weight can have an impact on our cancer risk as scientists say that, after not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight is the most important thing you can do for cancer prevention.

We have put together a Healthy Comfort Foods recipe booklet, proving that you can transform your favourite comfort foods into nutritious and tasty treats. We are offering the booklet free to the first 100 readers who call 0207 343 4205 and quote 'media.'

Lisa Cooney, head of education, World Cancer Research Fund

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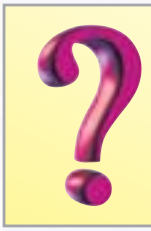

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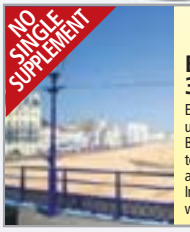

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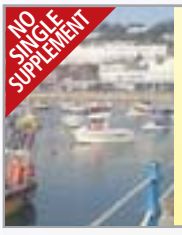
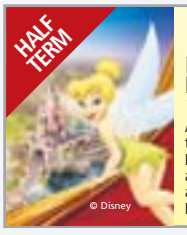
EASTBOURNE 30 Jan – 3 days
Eastbourne enjoys a glorious location, tucked under the rolling South Downs & the impressive Beachy Head. You'll have time to explore the town, take a stroll along the pretty seafront or admire the recently restored Victorian pier. Includes the 3* Chatsworth Hotel (HB), glass of wine on arrival & full day trip to Lewes.



£129pp*
TORQUAY 6 Feb – 4 days
Situated in the heart of the English Riviera a stylish resort combining modern facilities with the elegance of time gone by. The town is overflowing with vitality and places of interest. Why not enjoy a stroll along the Palm lined promenades giving a Mediterranean feel to your stay. Includes 3* Overmead Hotel (HB), complimentary taxi service to & from town.



fr £249pp**
DISNEYLAND® RESORT PARIS 16 Feb – 4 days
A fun filled family experience – Disney characters, thrill seeking rides & themed attractions. Both Disneyland® Park & Walt Disney Studios Park are accessible on your 3 day 'Hopper Pass' (included) as many times as you wish. Staying onsite at Disney's Sequoia Lodge Hotel (BB).

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ANTWERP – DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER! 27 Feb – 3 days
Antwerp, the diamond capital of the world, has long been a key trading place & port for Belgium. It offers a fantastic mixture of culture along with great shopping, cobbled streets & excellent restaurants. Beware the many chocolate shops will tempt even the most strong-willed! 4* Plaza Hotel in central Antwerp (BB)

£99pp*
WORTHING 27 Feb – 3 days
Situated between the beautiful South Downs & 5 miles of award winning coastline. The town offers superb theatres, friendly restaurants & fabulous shopping. Oscar Wilde found it such a 'charming town' & wrote 'The Importance of Being Earnest' whilst staying here. Close by is the outstanding countryside of East & West Sussex. Includes 3* Chatsworth Hotel (HB) & 1 full day excursion.

£199pp*
ISLE OF WIGHT "CRUISE WEEK", 2 Mar – 5 days
A break with a difference – soak up the sights & sounds of the Mediterranean all from the comfort of your seafront hotel…….ss "Trouville"! Includes: 2* Trouville Hotel (HB), afternoon tea, nightly themed dinners, entertainment & optional excursions.

£199pp*
AMSTERDAM 6 Mar – 4 days
An action packed city built around a spider's web of picturesque canals. Amsterdam offers world class museums, lively bars & enticing shops. Includes a 1/2 day Volendam trip, a pretty harbour town where ladies still wear traditional costumes. 4* hotel (BB), Amsterdam orientation & 1/2 day excursion.

NEW 2009 DAY TRIPS GREAT VALUE

JANUARY

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Sat 3	London January Sales	£10
Wed 7	Bluewater or Lakeside	£10
Sat 10	Lille Sales – by Tunnel	£19
Sat 10	London Boat Show 55th Anniversary New	£27
Sat 10	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 11	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Wed 14	London Museums	£15
Sat 17	Cirque Du Soleil "Quidam"	£85
Sat 17	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 18	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 18	Bruges or Sluis – by Tunnel	£30
Wed 21	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Thu 22	The Musical Museum With Lunch New	£29
Sat 24	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 25	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Sun 25	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Mon 26	Monday Special – Ypres & St Flora – by Tunnel	£20
Tue 27	Pussycat Dolls At The O2 Arena	£59
Wed 28	Mystery Day With Lunch	£20
Thu 29	London & Royal Opera House Tour New	£30
Sat 31	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39

FEBRUARY

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Sun 1	Holiday On Ice Brighton "Mystery"	£39
Thu 5	Greenwich Maritime Museum New	£15
Sat 7	London Showtime	fr £54
Mon 9	Monday Special – Ostend & St Flora – by Tunnel	£20
Wed 11	Lunch At Moulin Snick, St Omer – by Tunnel	£40
Thu 12	Raf Museum London New	£15
Sat 14	Valentines Love Is In The Air – London Eye & Chocolates	£39
Sun 15	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise	£59
Tue 17	London Zoo	£29
Wed 18	Kew Gardens Tropical Plants 250th Anniversary	£30
Thu 19	Boulogne & Hypermarket – by Tunnel	£25
Sat 21	Disneyland® Resort Paris – by Tunnel	£65
Sat 21	Mountbatten Festival Of Music	£53
Sun 22	Bruges or Sluis – by Tunnel	£30
Tue 24	Imperial War Museum & Ian Fleming Exhibition (James Bond)	£25
Wed 25	Sound Of Music	£49
Thu 26	Mystery Day	£15
Sat 28	Lakeside or Romford Market	£17

^ Call for child & senior prices

MARCH

Date	Destination	Price (Adult pp)^
Mon 2	Monday Special – Ghent – by Tunnel	£20
Wed 4	National Gallery & Picasso Exhibition New	£29
Fri 6	Dirty Dancing	£59
Sat 7	The Secret World Of Bletchley Park New	£29
Sun 8	Crufts Dog Show	£40
Tue 10	Paris In Springtime – by Tunnel	£40
Wed 11	Lunch At Moulin Snick, St Omer – by Tunnel	£40
Thu 12	Milestones Living History Museum New	£25
Sun 15	Bruges or Sluis – by Tunnel	£30
Tue 17	Windsor Lunch Cruise New	£35
Wed 18	Oliver New Show	£74
Thu 19	Wisley Gardens At Springtime	£25
Sat 21	London Showtime } Ideal gift for Mothers Day	fr £54
Sat 21	Hampton Court Floramania New } Ideal gift for Mothers Day	£30
Sun 22	London Eye, Lunch & River Cruise Mothers Day	£59
Tue 24	Arras – by Tunnel	£25
Wed 25	Kew Gardens At Springtime 250th Anniversary	£30
Thu 26	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sat 28	Disney Live – Mickey's Magic Show New	£39
Sat 28	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sun 29	Ideal Home Show	£30
Sun 29	Bruges or Sluis – by Tunnel	£30
Tue 31	Thames Lunch Cruise & London New	£40

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yourswalemusic

My hero worship of Billy isn't just Childish

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

CULT rocker Billy Childish is my hero – and he should be yours too.

Here are five reasons why you should cancel all plans you may have for this Friday and take in his performance with The Musicians of the British Empire at The Farmhouse in Canterbury instead:

1. The Chatham-born singer/artist/poet/film-maker goes under the stage name of Wild Billy Childish, an effortlessly cool pseudonym.

If you or I attempted to adopt such a stage name it would come across as juvenile, pretentious, or worse-case scenario; both juvenile and pretentious. Billy, on the other hand, gets away with it.

2. Billy's gig wardrobe consists of military uniform seemingly lifted straight off the set of classic 60s war film Zulu.

Fellow band members Wolf and Julie also get in on the act, playing along with the Rourke's Drift dress-up before heading on to the stage.

Matching band outfits are nothing new but are often simply adopted as part of a cheap marketing gimmick – think the slick suits sported by The Hives, for instance – but with the Musicians of the British Empire, their get-up seems entirely fitting.

3. Musicians inspired by Billy Childish include late Nirvana frontman and grunge godfather Kurt Cobain, pop royalty Kylie Minogue and Jack and Meg White of The White Stripes fame, to name but a few. Here's your chance to see what these industry greats saw.

4. The music is raw, energetic and – rather importantly – very good. The stripped-down garage rock sound is timeless. Simple riffs and killer hooks provide the backdrop for Billy's no-nonsense lyrics. Add the band's on-stage chemistry into the equation and you have a winner.

ICONIC: Nurse Julie and Wolf join Wild Billy Childish in Rourke's Drift dress-up as The Musicians of the British Empire

5. Billy does not care what you think of him. Nothing cements a man's status as cult hero more than his unequivocal desire to avoid such a tag. Ironic, don't you think?

The Farmhouse's Matt Gough said he was looking forward to Friday, commenting: "This is it.

"Artist, poet, punk rocker Billy Childish is hitting Canterbury town for a rare gig to celebrate the release of latest album Thatcher's Children, with his stripped down band of Nurse Julie and Wolf – The Musicians of the British Empire.

"The most prolific artist, poet and songwriter of his generation, and the shining jewel in Kent's cultural crown, this is not one to miss.

"This is the gig promised following The Musicians of The British Empire's unfortunate decision they had to make to pull out of Lounge On The Farm 2008."

Support on the night comes from one of the Medway Delta's garage bands, hand-picked by Billy himself – The Armitage Shanks.

Entry costs £10. Doors 8pm to 2am.

To buy tickets visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk/tickets_billychildish.htm

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Kayley performs the title track from her debut album Chasing Dreams

Hard rock band Tortilla Army perform and talk on The Ether

Kent Designed

The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong - To fall with you (from Birchington)
2. D-FiNiTiVE - Space (from Tenterden)
3. Kayley Weller - Tonight is going to be our night (from Deal)
4. Ron Bowdery - The Ghostship in sea mist (from New Eltham)
5. Shotgun Junky - Destiny (Maidstone)

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CHRISTMAS CHEER: The streets of Rochester will come alive as the town celebrates the festive period with entertainment from Dickensian times

A Dickens of a Christmas

Town to celebrate author during festive period

JOURNEY back in time and see the festive season through the eyes of a great writer with Rochester's Dickensian Christmas.

This weekend the town will be transporting visitors back to the 1800s for a traditional celebration of Christmas. Rochester will be alive with family entertainment and festivity from Dickens' day, proving the perfect antidote to modern day stresses and worries.

The streets that Dickens explored as a boy will be populated with entertainers and musicians. Visitors will also have the chance to join in with favourite Christmas carols and enjoy a guaranteed snowfall.

The festival actually begins on Friday (Dec 5) with the Grand Mistletoe Ball at the Corn Exchange. A three-course meal will be followed by music from The Donn Barcott Band. Tickets cost £24, to book call 01795 843317.

On Saturday, pick up some bargain Christmas gifts from Bespoke 2008 in The Prince's Hall at the Corn Exchange. Running from 10.30am to 4.30pm, the free event showcases the best of Medway's talented designers and makers.

Father Christmas will be in residence at Rochester Castle Gardens from 11am to 4pm both days, while at 3pm on Saturday Dickens' great, great grandson Gerald will perform his acclaimed one-man interpretation of A Christmas Carol at The Queens' Hall.

ROCHESTER'S DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS
Saturday December 6 and Sunday December 7, various venues in Rochester

Ashley Davis will host the sumptuous Bull Dinner at 7.30pm at the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel and at the same time the Christmas Concert With A Twist will be held at St Margaret's Church, with organist Gavin Williams and friends.

The fun continues on Sunday with John Bromley-Davenport QC's adaptation of A Christmas Carol in the cathedral nave at 1pm. Experience some real traditional entertainment at 2pm when The Fabulous FezHeads, England's premier sand dance vaudevillian illusionists, will baffle and amuse the audience at The Queen's Hall.

On both days The Seven Poor Travellers' Procession will set off from the Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel at 11am to the Six Poor Travellers' House, in time for the carving of the Christmas turkey. At noon Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Carr, will lead a procession of Dickens' characters and other participants from the junction of High Street and Almon Place to Rochester Castle Gardens.

The candlelit parade sets out from the same spot at 4.45pm, followed by an open-air carol concert overlooking Rochester Cathedral at 5pm. The BAE Systems Brass Band will lead a selection of carols which will be enhancing by a guaranteed snowfall.

Extra entertainment will be taking place at Rochester Castle Gardens both days, including a children's traditional funfair and a Christmas craft fair and there will be services taking place at the Cathedral throughout the weekend. With a wealth of street entertainment and activities at other venues, it should be a spectacular start to the festive season.

A full programme can be downloaded online at www.medway.gov.uk/dickensianchristmas or call Medway Visitor Information Centre on 01634 843666 for more details.

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FATHER CHRISTMAS

Various dates in December
Wildwood, near Herne Bay

DURING his busy Christmas travels, Santa Claus will be stopping off to deliver some festive cheer to a popular wildlife discovery park.

He will be visiting Wildwood from 2pm to 4pm this weekend and again on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, 20 and 21, and from 4pm to 6pm on Monday, December 15 to Wednesday, December 17.

Children will be able to meet Father Christmas in his specially designed grotto near the shop and visitors will also meet a herd of fallow and red deer.

The cost is £2 per child and places should be booked in advance on 01227 712111, as Father Christmas is likely to be very busy. All the money raised by the event will be used to support the conservation of rare British species such as water voles, red squirrels and dormice.

Access to Father Christmas at weekends is only permitted if membership or entrance to the park has been paid. This does not apply to weekday slots, as only the shop will be open and access to the park restricted. For more information go online at www.wildwoodtrust.org.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Tuesday December 9 to
Tuesday December 23
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

DISCOVER whether hunger is stronger than love in the Gulbenkian Theatre's enchanting Christmas show.

The family production tells the story of Hansel and Gretel, the brother and sister who are abandoned in the woods by their starving father.

Unable to feed his family, the poor woodsman gives in to his wife's demands and leaves his children to their fate in the dark forest.

After finding their way home the first time, the pair do not have as much luck the second time. Instead, they follow their noses to the heart of the woods, where both a sweet treat and a terrible witch await them.

With her taste for children on toast, will they be able to escape from the witch in time?

Presented by Lyngo Theatre, the show is a musical treat with lots of captivating songs, multi-role performances and striking imagery. Patrick Lynch, from CBBC's Razzle Dazzle, stars as Hansel.

The family show is suitable for children aged four and above. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £7 for children and £35 for family/friends groups of five. To book call 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

THE MERCURYMEN

Monday December 8
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

THE next Maverick@Zebra showcase is not to be missed, as the headline act comes with high recommendation.

The Mercurymen have a number of celebrity fans, including Coldplay, Brian Wilson and Ryan Adams, and they are tipped to be one of next year's big pop success stories.

Having toured incessantly throughout this year and opened for the likes of Level 42, Melody Gardot and Deacon Blue, the band is now preparing to release its first album in February.

Jinder, Simon Johnson and Gavin Wyatt were already quietly making a splash as solo performers before coming together in 2006.

Wyatt met the legendary producer Mickie Most at just 21 and spent the next four years learning the craft of songwriting from a great.

Guitar prodigy Johnson joined the Most stable after taking lessons with British guitar hero Albert Lee.

The former lead singer of Candlefire, Jinder has been described by Radio 1's Zane Lowe as "a significant new talent".

The special guest will be London-based singer/songwriter Lotte Mullan.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.

SWALE LEISURE

Player returns to squeeze out a few folk favourites

CONCERTINA player Steve Turner will bring a history of musical talent with him when he visits Faversham Folk Club next week.

He comes from a family of singers and concertina players and was a professional player for 12 years.

He has returned to the folk scene after spending 13 years running his violin retail business and exploring his classical side.

The gig will be held at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8.30pm on Wednesday, December 10. Tickets cost £5 for members and £6 for non-members.

For more details call 01795 534368 or visit www.favershamfolkclub.net.

Book a place at a fair for the perfect read

SNUGGLING up with a good book will be easier this winter, thanks to the Teynham Book Fair.

There should be plenty of bargains and fascinating finds at Teynham Village Hall in Belle Friday Close on Saturday (Dec 6). The fair runs from 10am to 3pm

Admission is free but donations to the Dogs Trust would be most appreciated.

Pupils ready to pull off a West End favourite

DRAMA students at St Edmund's School in Canterbury will bring the house down with popular comedy, Daisy Pulls It Off.

The award-winning West End favourite is an affectionate parody of life in a girls' boarding school of yesteryear.

The show runs at the school from Thursday (Dec 4) to Saturday (Dec 6), starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the school's events secretary on 01227 475600.

Rare live performance by punk rocker Childish

KENT artist, poet and songwriter Billy Childish will be giving a rare performance in Canterbury on Friday (Dec 3).

The punk rocker will be playing at The Farmhouse in Dover Street with his stripped-down band Nurse Julie and Wolf – The Musicians of the British Empire. He is celebrating the release of his latest album Thatcher's Children.

Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £10. The show is only for over-18s. Book online at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

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SWALE SHOPPING

Tasty rustic treats are in store at restaurant

ITALIAN restaurant Strada has launched its new winter menu.

The eaterie on Sun Street, in Canterbury city centre, has prepared new dishes alongside its famous hand-spun pizzas, pasta and risotto dishes.

New additions include Ribollita, a rustic hearty Tuscan soup for a starter and Saltimbocca di Maiale – fillet of pork with sage and proscuitto.

For more details see the restaurant's website at www.strada.co.uk.

Farm invites you to join the festive celebrations

THIS Friday, Chalkpit Farm Rural Shopping is hosting a night of Christmas delights and pampering.

With lights on the Christmas tree, choirs singing, food, drink, shopping and pampering, forget all the doom and gloom and come along for a Christmas treat. All the shops will be open from 9am until 9pm.

The centre is based on Adisham Road in Bekesbourne – and close to Howletts Wild Animal Park.

Feel good with mother's fine foods for children

EAT, drink and meet Mama Christmas at Chalkpit Farm this Friday.

The new Mama Feelgoods Fine Food store will be holding special events from 3pm including, bring the kids to meet Mama Christmas, hamper wrapping, and Christmas food tasting.

Refreshments will be available all evening at the Mama Feelgoods Coffee Shop.

Feel truly pampered on an evening of relaxation

CHALKPIT Farm's All Nine Maternity and Baby is host to a pamper evening; and reminds customers you don't have to be pregnant to be pampered.

Treatments are available from Maxine and Karen from Woodlands Hair and Beauty.

Pop in for a mini manicure, neck back and shoulder massage, Indian head massage, waxing treatments or a pregnancy massage.

Fifteen minute taster treatments are only £5. Pre booking is advisable, call 01227 713371.

Delightful decorations to glitter in your home

SPARKLE this Christmas. Essentially Hops at Chalkpit Farm has a wonderful selection of Christmas decorations to tempt you.

Design and order your handmade door wreath or purchase one from its ready-made collection.

Table decorations, candles, and Christmas Trees, tree decorations, gifts and flower arrangements, and don't forget your English holly and mistletoe.

To help in your decision making sip on a glass of mulled wine and graze upon a mince pie.

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WOMEN seeking men

LOVELY SUSIE
Sensitive, shy, caring lady, 20, loves life, sunsets, beaches, country walks, romantic meals, cinema, WLTM handsome gent to find love with. Box 446323

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde/blue, likes shopping, cinema, animals, WLTM honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 T

I LOVE FOOTBALL
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494 T

MAYBE MORE
Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLTM fun man 25-30. I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes, average build. Box 445622 T P

SNUGGLE UP
Tall, attractive, good-hearted African female, 28, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, wltm white male for friendship/romance. Box 441654 T

DON'T LET ME DOWN
Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 T

FROM ME TO YOU
Tall leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoy meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404

DON'T PASS ME BY
Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983 T

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 T P

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 T P

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 T

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa, looking for kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 T

FAIRY TALE ENDING
Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521 T

WHITE ROSES
Very attractive female, 42, slim, green eyes, high cheek bones, wicked SOH! Loves to make people laugh, seeking intelligent, well-mannered, kind man. Box 446543 T

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY
Caring lovable lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidence! seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 885761 T

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving, caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457 T

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 T

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 T

LOVELY JOSEPHINE
Passionate and fun-loving 43yr old female, enjoys clubbing, meals out and cooking, WLTM a male to share evenings out with. Box 445225 T

ATTRACTIVE
Professional female, 43, enjoys dancing, walking, reading and cooking, WLTM intelligent professional male, who can hold a good conversation, for a relationship. Box 444282 T

LOVING, CARING & HONEST
Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751 T

INTERESTED? GIVE ME A CALL
Homely traditional lady, 44, 5ft8, slim-medium build, non smoker, love life, animals, my dog!, walks along the harbour, country pubs, WLTM similar gent for romance... Box 446277 T

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 T

MISS JULIE
Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 888162 T

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)
Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384 T P

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 P

HERE WE ARE
Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672 T

MAKE ME LAUGH!
Fun extrovert person, 45, likes cinema, going out, meals, socialising, 5ft7, dark brown hair/eyes, curvy, seeking nice guy to start off as friends. Box 442905 T

EVERLASTING LOVE
Beautiful black female, 46, WLTM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 445407 T

ETERNALLY YOURS
Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 T

WE'LL SEE
Blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft5, slim build, looking for friendship, maybe more. I'm a nice woman, 47, seeking good male, for friendship, possibly more. Box 445932 T

SANDY SEEKS DANNY
Slim, petite Sandy, 46, brown hair, green eyes, no ties, loves socialising, eating out etc, GSOH, seeking trustworthy, honest man for partnership and mutual affection. Box 440100 T

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 T

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS
Single 47yr old lovely female, 5ft5, slim build, blonde hair, blue-green eyes, seeking male for potential LTR, must have GSOH! Box 885288 T

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833 T

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 T

WHERE R U?
Cheerful, honest, popular blonde, 50yrs old, 5ft2, slim build, looking to find an honest, loyal man that can make me happy again. Box 887347 T

DIG DEEPER
Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover Box 435441 T

ARE YOU MY MR RIGHT?
Independent, honest, caring and genuine smoker, 53, medium build, GSOH, likes socialising, travelling, WLTM a genuine and honest male for friendship, companionship, maybe a LTR. Box 887442

LOVING & HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
Jovial, caring female, 51, 5'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, own business, wltm nice, tall, good looking gent for laughter, life and love. Box 926614 T

NOTHING VENTURED...
New to this, I'm a 53yr old woman, seeking loving, tactile man. I enjoy walks, countryside, having fun, nights in and out. Box 446282 T

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS
Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383

ARE YOU MY BOND... JAMES BOND?
Kind, caring, attractive lady, young 53, 5'7", slim, brown hair/eyes. N/S, GSOH, enjoys walking, reading, travel, socialising; seeking tall, considerate, honest gent for hopeful LTR. Box 446079 T

SEEKING SOULMATE
Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH, 5ft5, blue eyes, sociable, loves music, dancing, travelling; seeking warm, sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446634 T

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WLTM an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with. Box 445122 T

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SOPHISTICATED SUE
Sue, 56yr old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, wltm a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309 T

DANCE WITH ME?
Slim, blonde, female, 57, interested hugely in live music of all genres, eating out, pubs (with music!). Looking for companionship initially. NOT looking for marriage! Box 887517 T P

HELP!
Positive, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks and music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with...disgracefully. Box 444943 T

DESPERATELY SOUGHT BY SUSAN!
Sue, 60, 5ft2, caring and bubbly, like walks, the theatre and eating out, looking for that special male, 59-64, N/S, who can make me laugh. Eastbourne Box 446135 T

FRESH AIR
Smart, attractive, bubbly blonde, 71, medium build, N/S, own house, GSOH, lives on coast, enjoys most things, WLTM smart gentleman for friendship, maybe more. Box 438147 T

Women seeking women

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142 T P

LOVELY JO
Young-looking attractive female, 54, n/s, friendly and sociable, love music, dance and history, warm and sparkly, WLTM a genuine female for a close female friendship. Box 445146 T

MEN seeking women

SECRET SMILE
Young guy, 19, dark complexion, enjoys socialising, cinema, pubs and clubs. Looking for a girl to go out and enjoy life with. Box 446706 T

AIMING TO PLEASE!
Down to earth guy, 19, slim build, 6ft, green eyes, romantic, likes to socialise and hoping to meet new people, especially 'the one'! Box 446740 T

ALL THE GOOD THINGS
Hi I'm Rob, 22, 6ft3, short dark hair, hazel eyes, enjoys cinema, cosy nights in, cinema, sports; seeking female 20-28 with GSOH for LTR. Box 446646

BLUE-EYED BOY
5ft8, blond-haired, blue-eyed, average-build guy, 23, likes hanging out with friends, trying new things, meeting new people, seeking similar girl for mutual love. Box 888422 T P

FOR LOVE
Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 T

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE
Man of adventure, 31, enjoys exploring, trying new things, being active, GSOH, good listener, seeking similar female to spend life with. Box 445879 T

LOOKING FOR YOU
Normal down-to-earth guy 5ft9, short hair, brown eyes, medium build, 34, love to meet female any age for outgoing, fun, friendly times and maybe more. Box 446154 T

LOVING
Outgoing male, 34, loves bowling and cosy nights in, WLTM an outgoing, bubbly and kind-hearted female to spend the rest of my life with. Box 445567 T

HERE WE ARE
Loving, caring male, 36, likes restaurants, drinks, works hard, non smoker, WLTM young lady 25-36, no ties, for lasting relationship. Box 446582 T

TIME TO TIME
Italian origin male, 36, tall, dark hair and eyes, loves good fun, very handsome, seeks bubbly, outgoing lady to take out and spoil. Box 446589 T

NON-SMOKING
Separated male, 36, 6ft, good looks and SOH, kind, caring and sensual, into films and fitness. Seeking a cutie to share life and love with. Box 445729 T P

EVERYTHING I DO
Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, wltm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720 T

YOUR TIME IS COMING
Maidstone male, 35, dark blond hair, dark eyes, nice looking, have 1 little girl, own business, varied interests, looking for a fun lady, under 40 Box 429375 T

R U 4 ME?
Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 T P

HOP ON!
Hi, I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorcycles, WLTM a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124 T P

YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446593 T

TRUE HONESTY, TRUE LOVE
Decent genuine guy, 39, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, good looking, seeking someone genuine, fun, and good company to be with forever. Box 446581 T

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR
Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 T

HONEST AND KIND
Down-to-earth male, great personality, 41, 6ft, medium build, loves the countryside, wine bars, cinema, sports; seeking female with great personality, honest and trustworthy. Box 446596 T

R WE THE SAME
Sporty single dad, 41, 5ft8, blue eyes, enjoys most things in life, looking for a genuine woman for friendship and more. Box 446093 T

SOON TO BE DIVORCED
My name is Steve, 41yrs young, 5ft7, normal build, looking for good company and fun with a female of height. GSOH is a must! Box 885615 P

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY
Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laugh, days out and much more. Box 436696 T

HONEST AND LOYAL
42yr old guy, new in town, 5ft8, muscular build, been hurt in past, looking for someone similar to move on in life with. Hastings Box 446668 T

THE FIRST KISS
Liverpudlian male, 43, loves football, works for NHS, loves fun and going to movies, seeking female to share dates, maybe more. Box 446633 T

A NICE GUY
Hello, I'm Jim, 6ft, 44, interests include; eating out, cinema and swimming, WLTM a lady with similar interests and gsoh. Box 445650 T

I'LL MAKE YOU LAUGH
Very romantic, caring and loyal male, 44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair, great SOH, seeks female with similar interests for hopeful LTR. Box 446120 T

DAD'S THE WORD
Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 30-60 to have fun with and hopefully something else. Box 446452 T

HAPPY TOGETHER
White male, 46, 5ft7, easygoing, n/s, loves a laugh, enjoys theme parks, concerts, romantic walks, wltm a female to be happy with. Kids no problem. Box 444339 P

TLC NEEDED ASAP
Genuine hard-working male, 47, slim, good looking, 5ft8, into most things...sports, pubs, meals, socialising, walks, travel...WLTM honest, loyal female, for TLC. Eastbourne. Box 444244 T P

GIVE IT A SHOT
Slim/medium build guy, 48, own home, looking for a girl to settle down with, likes going out and cosy nights on the sofa. Box 446699 T

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!
Youthful dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wltm female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 737529 T P

PUPPY LOVE
Dog-loving guy, I'm 47, 5ft8, with short hair/green eyes, slim build. I love gardening, country walks, sports - football/tennis, DIY, animals. Box 428800 T

ALL TYPES WELCOME
Fit male, 49, 5ft7, brown eyes, short hair, muscly, likes football, sport, walking' I'm outgoing, seeking a similar woman for good times. Box 446719 T

LARGER THAN LIFE
50yr old gentle chap, likes eating in, out, cinema, walks and music, seeking cuddly, nice, mature buxom female for friendship. Box 446721

MY HEART WILL GO ON
Genuine, young-at-heart man, 50, likes eating in/out, cinema, music, country walks, wltm a nice, cuddly lady, 60-70. Box 440903 T

WAITING FOR YOU
Fun-loving and laid-back male, 50, 6ft4, slim/medium build, smoker, enjoys cinema, music, travel, country pubs, seeking female 40-46 for fun, romance & LTR. Box 443869 T

READ THIS!
50yr old man, looking for black lady, 30-60. I like eating in and out, walks, music, cinema, having a laugh. Like what you read? Box 439057 T

JOIN ME, COMPLETE US
Hi, I'm 50 with two grown up kids, love country pubs, walks, life, GSOH, WLTM a nice lady to get to know of any age. Box 439922 T

CRAZY, HAPPY, DEVOTED IN LOVE
Young male, active, 52, enjoys socialising, mixing with people, chatting, having fun, cooking, music, theatre, travel, seeking like-minded female for love and happiness. Box 444040 T

ACTIVE & ATTRACTIVE
I'm 53, 5ft9, good-looking! Love sports, horses, animals generally, WLTM an honest, caring lady, preferably blonde & sporty, to get to know. Box 439298 T

LOVE ME, LOVE MY TROLLEY
Tall, dark, divorced male, 59, likes most music, dining out, cinema, seeking female to share my Tesco trolley for friendship and hopefully more. Box 444251 T

FIRST CLASS
Independent fit male, 61, 5ft11, own business, enjoys music, travelling, the sea, seeking female companion 40-50, non smoker, any origin, genuine and caring. Box 446635 T

HERE TO BE WITH YOU
Genuine, kind, affectionate male, 61, slim-medium build, 5ft11, fully domesticated! Enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, country pubs; looking for my soulmate. Box 446624 T

NUTS OVER YOU!
61yr old gent, 5ft9, slim, non-smoker, nutty but fun, nice looks, likes foreign travel, cinema, music, seeking similar nutty female for like-minded good times. Box 440173 T P

Men seeking men

FUN TIMES
35yr old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652 T

ARE YOU INTERESTED?
Good guy, looking for male, 35-50. I'm 40, green eyes, dark hair, average build. I enjoy pubs, music, cinema, dining in/out. Box 436613 T

ARRESTING LOVE
Hi there, I'm 40, 6ft, green eyes, blond hair, own house, enjoy pubs, keeping fit, seeking similar male, sporty, for fun and maybe more. Box 436788 T

FUN TIMES TO BE HAD
Happy-go-lucky male, 50, 5ft10, blond hair, green eyes, slender build, into most things, looking for straight-acting men for friendship and more. Genuine replies only. Maidstone. Box 889297 T

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CUDDLY FEMALE
32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 T

ATTENTION! TALL WHITE GUY REQUIRED
Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778 T

FUN-LOVING FEMALE
Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, wltm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 T P

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large-build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 T

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 T P

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE
37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552 T

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039 T

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND
38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 T

FUTURE FUN, PASSION & ADVENTURE!
Separated brilliant brunette, 39, single mum, 5ft7, likes swimming and house music, WLTM a kind and considerate tall white male with dark shoulder length hair. Box 445684 T

COOK UP A STORM
Tunbridge Wells lady, brown hair/eyes, 38. I'm a teacher and love theatre, reading, cinema, swimming, travel. Looking for like minded chap for happy times. Box 444923 T

NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573 T

NICE TO MEET YOU
I'm Nina, 40, single mum, looking to meet a single dad, single dads welcome, for friendship and more. I like motorbikes, wildlife and the beach. Box 446679 T

COME ON OVER
Divorced female, 40, likes fishing, swimming, walking and eating out, WLTM young man, for friendship and more. Box 446097 T

TOO MUCH TO ASK?
Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 T P

THE HOME LIFE
Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest. I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, and would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024 T

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL
Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beaches, pubs, clubs, wltm a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with. Box 435102 T

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

FOUR CHRISTMASES (12A)

Be prepared for a crazy Christmas. Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughan star as a couple whose plans for an exotic Christmas are thrown into disarray when the airport becomes fog-bound. Instead, they find themselves forced to attend four separate family celebrations on the same day.

BODY OF LIES (15)

A dramatic thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio as a CIA agent who has tracked a suspected terrorist in Jordan. Now he must trust those he feels will deceive him to get the job done. Also starring Russell Crowe and directed by Ridley Scott, Body Of Lies is a tense thriller.

CHOKE (18)

From maverick author Chuck Palahniuk (Fight Club) and new writer-director Clark Gregg comes the subversively comedic tale of Victor Mancini, con artist, sex addict, colonial village re-enactor, angst-filled son, serial restaurant choker – and unsuspecting romantic anti-hero for our unsettling times.

Angelina's change of heart

■ BY **JULIA HUNT** AND **KATE WHITING**

ANGELINA Jolie is one of the most distinguished actresses of her generation.

She embodies the grace and beauty of the old-style Hollywood belles as well as being an earth mother to her six children and devoted partner of actor Brad Pitt.

The 33-year-old seems to play each role – in life and on the big screen – with deft aplomb, ensuring that what is private remains private, but giving her all to each character she plays.

She becomes so embroiled in each performance, in fact, that when she first read the script for her latest role, as single mother Christine Collins in Changeling, she turned it down.

Upsetting

"When I read the script, I could not put it down and then I said 'No'. Immediately. I did not want to go near this project because it was too upsetting.

"But then I couldn't stop talking about her," Angelina, elegant in grey, explains.

"I found myself sitting with people and wanting them to know about this extraordinary woman that you wouldn't believe what happened to her and what these people did to her."

Changeling, the latest work from legendary actor-turned-director Clint Eastwood, tells the story of Christine, whose son Walter disappears without a trace in 1928 Los Angeles.

Five months later, a child who claims to be her son is returned by police, who are keen to win credit for a job well done.

Dazzled by flashbulbs and overwhelmed by reporters, Christine agrees to take the boy home, even though she knows it is not her son.

RETHINK: Angelina Jolie first turned down the role of Christine Collins in Changeling

Her campaign to find the real Walter continues, but in Prohibition-era LA, women don't stand up to the system and she is sent to a mental institution.

Christine's long battle against the corrupt system eventually changed the course of the city's history.

"I found it very inspiring in the end," Angelina continues.

"It became a story about democracy in action, a story about justice, about suffering a great loss and fighting through it and making a change for the future, for other people and questioning government and the police.

"Christine had to walk a very fine line and then, when she did speak out, they locked her in an institution, so she had this real struggle to try to behave with these corrupt people."

Angelina gave birth to twins in July this year, and they are apparently asleep in her room at London's Claridge's when we meet. Knox and Vivienne are the latest additions to her and Brad's brood but were still just a glint in their mother's eye while she was filming.

The actress says that her other children – Maddox, seven, Pax, four, Zahara, two – who were all adopted – and two-year-old Shiloh, her first child with Brad, were a comfort to her during the harrowing shoot.

"I had my kids with me as much as possible at lunch and after doing a day at work I would run home," she reveals.

"I just wanted to be silly. It was so emotional that I found myself being really goofy. I was so happy that I knew where my kids were and they were OK."

For an actress at the top of her game, it seems unusual, then, that Angelina plans to bow out of the business. But her family clearly comes first.

"I'm not making some big retirement announcement, but I have a big family and I have a lot of responsibility at home.

"Maybe I'll make a film once a year and then maybe once every two years, and then maybe eventually I'll stop."

CHANGELING
Certificate 15

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YOUR TV REVIEW

DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART
More 4, 8.30pm, weeknights
HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU
BBC One, 9pm, Friday

BY **TOM BETTS**

AS the presidency of George W Bush enters its final days, I think it's fair to say that there won't be many who mourn the end of his time in office too much.

Some are already calling the Texan 'the worst president ever', but for comedians, satirists and impressionists everywhere, the final decline of Dubya will prove a real loss.

For Jon Stewart, current king of the American TV schedules, it will be a sad day indeed.

The golden boy of liberal America has long since overtaken the likes of Letterman and Leno in his lampooning of the president.

Meanwhile, as the man revered by so many for sticking it to Dubya, he's even scored a role hosting Oscars night, and the keys to a million educated female hearts into the bargain.

The Daily Show has now been on our screens for some considerable time, too, not that you would know it thanks to criminal under-promotion.

More 4 bagged it up and stuck it on for us all to wonder at, but the show faces a big challenge with the impending arrival of Barack Obama in the Oval Office.

It could be seen as party-pooping if the jokes start flying at the expense of the man many regard as the chosen one, especially as, being the first black president, he looks set to enjoy a post-election honeymoon period most politicians would kill for.

In a way, Stewart has much in common with the team of Have I Got News For You, back on BBC One for series number 36. In these times of British voter apathy and low turnout, the likes of Ian Hislop and Paul Merton perhaps form as effective an opposition as the shadow cabinet, for half an hour a week at least.

VOTE-WINNER: More 4's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart is one of television's hidden gems

But while HIGNFY is still a mainstay of the schedules – and deservedly so – is it not about time they found a regular presenter?

With Boris Johnson now in what passes for serious mode, he won't be back for a guest host slot and for every good host, like Alexander Armstrong, there's an embarrassing turn by Anne Widdecombe or Joan Collins.

Not that any of this has blunted the tongues of Ian Hislop or Paul Merton, who remain as sharp as they have ever been.

Politics – it's the new rock'n'roll. Haven't you heard?

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
A PASSION packed love affair gives you a sexy glow that makes friends, family and fellow workers sit up and take notice. Nothing puts a spring in your step like love. An unexpected expense could force you to cancel arrangements, but you won't let it get you down for long.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
AN old friendship could blossom into new romance with very little encouragement. You're not sure why you've developed such a strong desire for the person in question. Perhaps you're getting tired of the people you usually fall for and fancy something a little different.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
CAREER concerns put you in the spotlight, which is exactly where you like to be. Being offered a plum position is proof your boss is impressed with your talent. It may be necessary to train with someone older as a means to learn the business from the ground up.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
A BURNING desire to travel may prompt you to book a trip. If you're single, you're sure to find romance on this journey. You could be drawn to someone who is much older or younger than you. This age difference seems to enhance your relationship, not detract from it.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
MONEY from an inheritance or legal settlement gives you a chance to make home improvements. If you don't own a home, think about buying one. Although you hate being tied down it's usually a good idea to have a secure base. A close friend or partner could lose their job.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
Someone close gives you the drive to go back to school. Learning a foreign language or taking up new technological skills will be stimulating and frustrating. Stick with it, all good things take time and perseverance. A legal decision could come as an utter surprise.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
YOUR job puts you in touch with some highly creative people. Being around writers, painters, or actors may inspire you to begin an art project. Your imagination is your most precious treasure. If you stick to this path, you might even be able to sell your work for a handsome profit.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
YOU yearn to go on an overseas journey with your lover, or in search of a lover. Exotic surroundings will fan the flames of your mutual passion. Don't impose your family's values on your beloved. Just because you were raised to think a certain way doesn't mean it's right.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct23)
HOME is where the heart is. Entertaining friends and family brings out the best in you. You're the type of host who is able to let go and have a good time after your guests arrive. That's probably why your parties are so successful. Resist the urge to tell a colleague what you really think.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU could get some good news regarding a female friend or relative. A fun night on the town will let you forget all of the frustrations that have been building for the past few weeks. An official from a humanitarian organisation may offer to write you a recommendation.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS (Nov23-Dec21)
NORMALLY you don't care much about your personal presentation or what you wear, but this week you'll want to make a good impression on a potential employer. If you look the part of a professional, you'll be more likely to land a well paid position.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
THIS is a great time for learning and studying. If you want to boost your qualification apply for a place on a training course now, while the stars are behind you. Complicated technology has a nasty way of breaking down just when you need it most. Be sure to back up your files.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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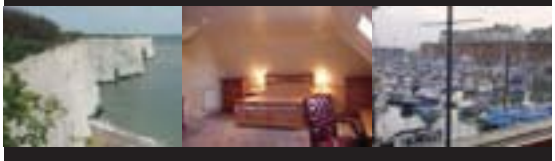

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EASY

3	8	5		6				
2						3	7	
				3	9		8	
	9				6	4		7
5	2		4		3		6	8
4		6	9				3	
	1		6	9				
	3	2						9
				1		2	4	6

MEDIUM

	1		8	7				
		2		6				8
	8				5		6	
		9	5					1
8	4						9	6
1					4	8		
	6		9				2	
7				4		9		
				2	1		4	

HARD

		4						2
2	6				5		3	1
				8				
		1	5					6
		6	3		1	2		
8					2	5		
				5				
1	8		9				5	7
6						4		

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS
1 Prudish tract ladies removed (6-5)
9 Trip up giving a shout of pain when it has not been cultivated (6)
10 Eat another loaf or scone (7)
12 Get back to put the lid on again (7)
14 Resort to drugs singularly and be ruined (2,2,3)
15 Bar-room dart damaged cap (11)
16 Service long way back (1,1,1)
17 Title of man in middle of vice squad (3)
19 Arrangement by priest and choir before written records (11)
22 King entered vessel put in order (5,2)
23 Intellect prepared having fixed attitude (7)
24 Alan's replacing silver put into pasta! (7)
25 Partly crazy, got ecstatic with cell (6)
26 Founding charitable organisation (11)

DOWN
2 Melted tarmac runs under vehicle (7)
3 Matters been deposited by rivers (7)
4 Pull westwards (3)
5 Eye defect, one brand (11)
6 Previous one with lieutenant Edward had been placed in a position of respect (7)
7 Jay ruined spare porcelain (6)
8 Fierce cat, it destroyed document (11)
11 Urgent summons to action on the clarion? (7-4)
13 Tree from India? (6,5)
18 Feeling swell when at sea? (6)
19 Penny put a cloth on model (7)
20 Drunk performing inside before the end of the day (7)
21 Father leaves French city with German fellow to get Italian dish (7)
25 Fuzz, it covers spot (3)

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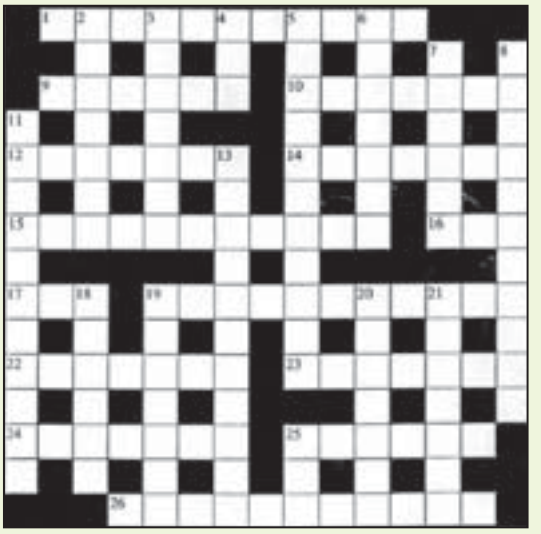

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1 Compatible (4-7)
9 Seized (6)
10 Flickering (7)
12 Aperture (7)
14 Racing (7)
15 Went ahead of oneís turn (5-6)
16 Yea (3)
17 Ovum (3)
19 Youngster fond of pop-music (5-6)
22 Phoenixís state (7)
23 Extremely reckless (7)
24 Old shoe fastening (7)
25 Smooth stone (6)
26 January 1st (3,5,3)

DOWN
2 Elusive (7)
3 Brown coal (7)
4 Astern (3)
5 Green pigment of plants (11)
6 Decorated with white fur (7)
7 Confirm the truth (6)
8 With a strong desire to act (5-6)
11 Capable of being overcome (11)
13 Luxuriantly (11)
18 Merrymaking (6)
19 Metrical foot (7)
20 Passenger-carrier (7)
21 Kneecap (7)
25 Vegetable (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No64

EASY

3	6	1	2	7	8	4	9	5
7	8	9	6	5	4	1	2	3
4	5	2	3	9	1	6	8	7
9	4	8	5	2	6	3	7	1
5	1	7	4	8	3	9	6	2
6	2	3	9	1	7	8	5	4
8	9	4	7	3	5	2	1	6
1	7	6	8	4	2	5	3	9
2	3	5	1	6	9	7	4	8

MEDIUM

7	9	3	5	1	4	8	2	6
6	5	1	2	9	8	7	3	4
8	2	4	3	6	7	9	1	5
5	3	7	4	8	9	1	6	2
9	1	2	6	3	5	4	7	8
4	6	8	7	2	1	3	5	9
1	7	5	8	4	6	2	9	3
2	8	6	9	7	3	5	4	1
3	4	9	1	5	2	6	8	7

HARD

8	2	5	6	3	1	9	4	7
7	9	4	2	8	5	1	3	6
6	1	3	9	7	4	8	5	2
4	6	9	5	1	2	7	8	3
2	7	8	4	6	3	5	9	1
5	3	1	7	9	8	2	6	4
3	8	2	1	4	9	6	7	5
1	4	7	8	5	6	3	2	9
9	5	6	3	2	7	4	1	8

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No64

ACROSS: 1 Jingoistic 6 Scow 9 Comet 10 Calm 11 Saki 13 Ladies-in-waiting 14 Radiance 16 Advice 18 Floppy 19 Shoulder 22 Religious orders 24 Lobe 25 Limb 26 Exist 27 Gaga 28 Interstate. **DOWN:** 1 Jocular 2 Nomad 3 On the rampage 4 Succinct 5 In-laws 7 Clarified 8 Wriggle 12 Hindquarters 15 Doodlebug 17 Chasuble 18 Foreleg 20 Rosette 21 Potion 23 Eliza.

QUICK SOLUTION No65

ACROSS: 1 Well-matched 9 Caught 10 Lambert 12 Orrice 14 Running 15 Queue-jumped 16 Yes 17 Egg 19 Teeny-bopper 22 Arizona 23 Lunatic 24 Latchet 25 Pebble 26 New Years Day **DOWN:** 2 Evasive 3 Lignite 4 Aft 5 Chlorophyll 6 Ermined 7 Verify 8 Stage-struck 11 Conquerable 13 Exuberantly 18 Gaiety 19 Trochee 20 Omnibus 21 Patella 25 Pea.

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In search of the real Holland

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

I'D LIKE to extend my gratitude to the rowdy group of English tourists who accompanied me on my flight to Amsterdam.

Had it not been for their oh-so-stereotypical Brits abroad 'banter' throughout the entire one-hour journey, I may have been tempted to spend another weekend in the Dutch capital rather than continue on to The Hague as planned.

Luckily, the middle-aged mob's mantra – smoking cannabis and making countless sorties into the red-light district – served only to reinforce my desire to search out a deeper, truer side of Holland.

And that's what I found in The Hague.

The country's third-largest city, known by its inhabitants as Den Haag, provided the backdrop for a perfect city break.

The good people at the Dutch and The Hague tourist boards laid on a packed programme of culture, fine eating, contemporary Brazilian dance/puppetry and drunken dancing on a bar (although this last activity was not originally part of the schedule).

Here's how I spent my time:

FRIDAY: Having arrived in Holland shortly after 11am, less than 30 minutes later we pulled into The Hague Central Station and set off on foot for our hotel, which was conveniently placed near a thriving district of high-street shops, intimate boutiques and restaurants.

Having settled in, we made our way via tram to our first tourist destination, the miniature world of Madurodam.

The outdoor visitor attraction plays home to dozens of meticulously accurate replicas of the area's most recognisable landmarks.

Dinner was taken at the oriental-styled Restaurant Puck, which served up an array of modern fish and meat dishes, all of which was cooked up in the busy, open-view kitchen.

DONE AMSTERDAM? If so, visit The Hague, which offers superb museums, galleries and a lively bar and restaurant scene

SATURDAY: Having taken in a range of modern art at the Gemeentemuseum we were then given the chance to take in some Dutch classics at the Mauritshuis, Holland's Royal Picture Gallery.

The compact museum boasts priceless works from the likes of Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer, including the latter's most famous piece, Girl With A Pearl Earring.

While the modern art at our first stop was 'interesting', it's hard to gaze upon a bundle of screwed-up paper or two thick, parallel lines on a white canvas with the same admiration as a 300-year-old masterpiece.

With lunchtime fast approaching, we made our way to the delightfully regal Hotel Des Indes for high tea.

Next on the agenda was a whistle-stop tour of The Hague, taking in the city's most prominent buildings.

Highlights included Queen Beatrix's Paleis Noordeinde (official work palace) and the beautiful Binnenhof buildings, which house the Dutch parliament.

The tour was wrapped up with a traditional bite to eat – raw herring with onions. Despite being not much of a fish fan, the Dutch delicacy went down well.

We spent our evening at the Candance Festival taking in a Brazilian contemporary dance/puppetry show, which was less pretentious than the description implies.

The plot loosely centred on the Wizard of Oz, complete with ruby-red slippers and a 6ft foam puppet of the Wicked Witch. Don't ask.

Drinks were then taken at a cosmopolitan pub, where end-of-the-night dancing on the bar seemed like a good idea at the time.

SUNDAY: Hangover. Breakfast. Bus ride to the historic city of Delft. With its ancient canals, churches and city walls, it gives visitors a chance to take in Holland of old.

The 13th-century city, the birthplace of painter Johannes Vermeer, boasts the wondrously-named Oude Kerk (old church) and Nieuwe Kerk (new church), open market-place and miles of peaceful canals.

It proved the ideal place to wind down from a long weekend.

FACT FILE: THE HAGUE

Travel details

From London to Amsterdam, KLM operates up to 16 routes a day between London Heathrow and London City Airport. Fares start at £118 per person return, including taxes.

For more information and to book, log on to www.klm.com, phone 08705 074 074, or visit your local travel agent.

From London Gatwick to Amsterdam, British Airways operates up to five flights per day.

Fares start at £100 per person return. For more information and to book, log on to www.britishairways.com, phone 0844 493 0787, or visit your local travel agent.

From Amsterdam Airport Schiphol you can take the train to The Hague Central Station; direct trains depart every 30 minutes with a journey time of 31 minutes.

Cost of one-way ticket is 7.30 euros.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Better news for the first-timers

THE head of a firm specialising in working with first-time buyers says the prospect for the market is improving.

Paul Holmes, chief executive of First-rung, claimed the falling prices of homes meant that more and more properties were coming within the reach of buyers.

However, he added that those who are looking to get on the housing ladder need to ensure their jobs are safe – and will need a larger deposit than previously of about 15 to 20 per cent.

"The good news is that while they [first-time buyers] are saving up for the deposit, house prices will continue to fall and come more in line with affordability and their expectations," said Mr Holmes.

But he added the first stage for newcomers to the market would be them having to save "furiously" for the deposit because of its increase since the credit crunch took hold.

Agents demand action from top

ESTATE agents are calling on the Government to inject some life into the housing market by taking action to help the beleagured business.

A poll by the National Association of Estate Agents showed 54 per cent had no confidence in the Government, and the body is calling for more interest rate cuts and a suspension of stamp duty.

The most recent findings when it comes to property analysis have prompted the call.

The number of sales per agent was up from six to seven – still historically low – and the number of first-time buyers taking a part in the market increased.

However, there was a seven per cent fall in the number of house-hunters on estate agents' books to 196.

Prices dive slowing

THE rate at which house prices are falling eased in November, according to analysts.

The average cost of a home dropped by just 0.4 per cent during the month, compared with a slide of 1.3 per cent during October, according to the Nationwide Building Society.

HOPEFUL: As sellers are becoming more realistic about the new value of their homes, vendors and surveyors are anticipating a genuine improvement in market conditions

Reality check brings optimism to market

LEVELS of home-buying are still falling, but estate agents claim that they are seeing some early positive signs of recovery in the property market.

■ BY **NICK AMES**

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (Rics) market survey for October points to a slight upturn in prices – although that is from what was an extreme low.

The main factor found to be depressing prices was the large stock of unsold properties and limited numbers of buyers – but not a surge in forced selling, as a high number of recession-fuelled repossessions has yet to feed into the market.

The number of completed sales per surveyor was also down.

But the feeling of hope across the market is improving, with more analysts expecting an upturn than had a positive outlook at the start of the autumn.

On average the number of sales per surveyor fell from 11.5 to 10.9 – the lowest on record since 1978 and a fall of 53.6 per cent on a year ago.

Surveyors had on average 80.7 properties on their books.

Rics spokesman Ian Perry said: "The interest rate cut should certainly help support the market now lenders have agreed to pass on the reduction to borrowers.

"Even so, the general lack of mortgage finance remains a major blockage in the housing market for a large majority of would-be buyers."

Along with the two per cent drop in interest rates in two months, surveyors did see some glimmer of hope.

Twenty per cent more chartered surveyors expect an upturn in sales over the next three months, a rise from just four per cent in September.

The increase in optimism is reflected in part by an increasing trend of vendors dropping asking prices, but it may also be a sign there are expectations of a jump in the number of repossessions.

"Many vendors have finally started to accept current market conditions and are dropping their asking prices to achieve a sale," Mr Perry said.

"Sales should increase in the coming months as more and more sellers understand greater realism is the only way to make that long-desired move."

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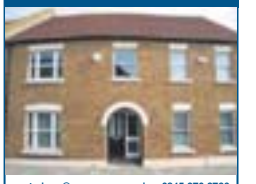

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MOTORS NEWS

Octavia's given facelift to make it even better

SKODA is launching a revised Octavia in January 2009, with an extensive facelift, bringing the Czech marque's best-seller into line with the rest of the current range.

Prices of the new Octavia represent an average increase of £473 for the Octavia Hatch and £478 for the Octavia Estate.

Changes include dynamic, sweeping headlights and complimentary front fog lights, new foldable door mirrors and body coloured bumpers and side mouldings, plus a new look interior with better steering wheels, sound systems and upholstery.

A new 1.4 TSI 122bhp engine replaces the current 1.6 FSI 115bhp and a 2.0 FSI 200bhp engine with DSG transmission will be introduced on the Octavia vRS.

Megane awarded Euro NCAP safety award

RENAULT'S latest Megane is its 11th model to earn the Euro NCAP five-star crash test rating.

Safety kit includes: twin side-impact sensors, an innovation that debuted with Laguna III; six airbags, including two twin-chamber thorax/groin airbags; the Renault System for Restraint and Protection, which combines pretensioners and load limiters with twin-stage dual-chamber adaptive front airbags; new-generation headrests; and ABS and Emergency Brake Distribution come as standard.

Car chief makes a call for Government lifeline

CARMAKERS need Government help to mitigate the impact of a downturn that "looks certain to get worse before it gets better", says a car chief.

It was "appropriate and necessary" for the Government to support the industry, added Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders president Graham Smith.

UK support was needed over and above the proposed 40 billion euro loan package which may soon be agreed by European finance ministers.

"We must collaborate nationally to compete internationally," said Mr Smith.

"We have asked for the finance divisions of vehicle manufacturers to get access to the same special liquidity arrangements as are now available to the banks. This access to finance and credit will help to boost demand and support our retail and distribution operations."

NO LAUGHING MATTER: Despite its silly name Kia's Ceed is a serious threat to Ford, Vauxhall and Peugeot, particularly with the offer of a 100,000-mile/seven-year warranty

Sowing a Ceed of doubt in the minds of Ford & Co

KIA'S Ceed hints at why Ford, the original blue-collar brand, is trying to don a white collar.

Okay, Ceed is one of the sillier model names on the market, but nobody is laughing at the headquarters of traditional mainstream carmakers like Ford, Vauxhall or Peugeot.

This five-door Ford Focus rival looks good, feels European, is priced keenly and comes with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty – unprecedented and still unchallenged on the UK market.

It still cannot quite match the Ford dynamically, but the gap is not so great; the interior of the Kia concedes little, while some drivers might prefer its more pliant ride.

The big question for would-be owners though is: which engine? Ceed prices start at £11,270 in supermini territory rather than Focus class, but that buys the 1.4-litre petrol 'cooking' version.

Most buyers will opt instead for a 1.6 petrol (from £11,820) or 1.6 diesel (from £12,570), but it is still a tough call because the old argument that the petrol will be more refined is undermined by the fact that Kia's 1.6 unit is only average on that front, while its two diesel sisters are silky for this class.

You pay more upfront for the diesels though and need to be confident of covering enough miles to enable the greater economy to recoup that extra cash.

There is less to ponder about the interior; after a previous generation Kia Rio – the car it replaced effectively, since the current Rio is closer to supermini class – this is a quantum leap in quality and comfort, with a decent built-in CD/audio system and steering wheel controls now arranged in the normal indicators-to-the-left 'European' way.

Try to press on with the Ceed and the forgiving suspension allows it to pitch more than a Focus or Vauxhall Astra, though it is never lacks grip or tests confidence.

If this sounds like a deal-breaker though, try the more tautly arranged three-door Proceed version.

There is also a third family member worth considering – the capacious and practical Ceed SW estate.

No wonder Ford & Co are worried.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

ROAD TEST
KIA CEED

BY **STEVE LOADER**

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Image	★★★☆☆
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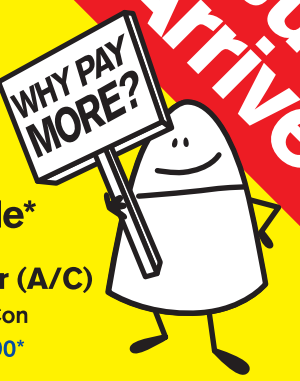

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Medium Cars — Choice of 365

05 to 57 Reg	Mazda3 - Choice of 20	£7,799
06 to 08 Reg	Peugeot 207 - Choice of 25	£6,799
02 to 57 Reg	Peugeot 307 - Choice of 90	£5,299
03 to 57 Reg	Renault Megane - Choice of 25	£4,999
52 to 07 Reg	Ford Focus - Choice of 40	£3,799
02 to 57 Reg	Vauxhall Astra - Choice of 45	£5,499

Large Cars — Choice of 215

54 to 08 Reg	Peugeot 407 - Choice of 50	£5,999
02 to 57 Reg	Renault Laguna - Choice of 10	£3,499
X to 57 Reg	Ford Mondeo - Choice of 70	£3,999
02 to 55 Reg	Toyota Avensis - Choice of 10	£2,199
54 to 57 Reg	Vauxhall Vectra - Choice of 25	£6,799
53 to 56 Reg	VW Passat - Choice of 10	£5,499

MPVs — Choice of 140

54 to 57 Reg	Peugeot 807 - Choice of 10	£9,999
04 to 08 Reg	Renault Scenic - Choice of 10	£5,699
Y to 07 Reg	Citroen Picasso - Choice of 20	£3,799
05 to 08 Reg	Ford Focus C-Max - Choice of 10	£6,499
53 to 08 Reg	Vauxhall Zafira - Choice of 20	£5,499
54 to 07 Reg	VW Sharan - Choice of 15	£9,999

Prestige Cars — Choice of 85

06 to 56 Reg	BMW 1 Series - Choice of 5	£12,999
52 to 07 Reg	BMW 3 Series - Choice of 10	£6,299
53 to 06 Reg	Jaguar X-Type - Choice of 20	£8,299
W to 04 Reg	Lexus IS200 - Choice of 5	£6,499
51 to 55 Reg	Mercedes A-Class - Choice of 10	£5,499
03 to 55 Reg	Mercedes C Class - Choice of 15	£9,499

Sports & 4X4s — Choice of 85

54 to 07 Reg	Mazda MX-5 - Choice of 10	£9,799
04 to 07 Reg	Mazda RX-8 - Choice of 15	£9,499
05 to 56 Reg	Honda CR-V - Choice of 10	£10,599
Y to 06 Reg	Land Rover Freelander - Choice of 10	£5,499
54 to 55 Reg	Nissan X-Trail - Choice of 5	£8,999
51 to 55 Reg	Toyota Rav4 - Choice of 15	£5,799

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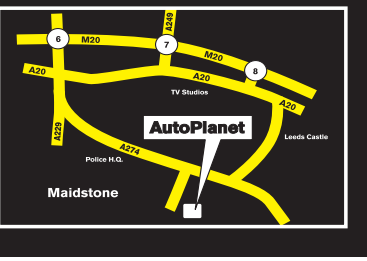

* Cheaper than Parker's Guide retail prices on selected models only. Parker's franchised retail price for a nearest match specification. † 10.9% APR applies to selected models. Fair deal finance example based on an 07 57 Peugeot 307 1.6 16v S 5dr (A/C) subject to status and age. ** Saving based on current new car list price of a 07 57 Peugeot 307 1.6 16v S 5dr (A/C) £14427 inc. metallic paint and 08 Mazda MX-5 1.8i 2dr £15605 inc. metallic paint. Terms and conditions apply. This is a limited offer subject to availability, the company reserves the right to withdraw the offer at any time. Offer available on selected cars upon request at commencement of the sales process. Ask your local dealer for further information. AutoPlanet are licensed credit brokers. Written details available upon request. Finance is subject to status, guarantees/indemnities may be required. Cars shown for illustrative purposes only. All prices correct at time of going to press. Monthly payment options available on all cars. Written quotations on request, subject to status, applicants must be over 18. In most cases the customer may not be the 1st registered owner on the registration documents. Address: 1 Lea Valley Road, Chingford, London, E4 7PX.

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

DISTINCTIVE MIDI-MPVS

carsforkent.co.uk

IN 1997, Renault tried a bit of lateral thinking with the 'people carrier' concept it pioneered with the Espacé and came up with the 'midi' or 'compact' MPV (multi-purpose vehicle). The result was the original five-seat Scenic, the blueprint for even more vehicles than the original Espacé inspired, and the impetus for waves of tall, space efficient 'MPV styling' across the whole car market. As one of the new car market's boom sectors over the past few years, it means there is also plenty of choice for user car buyers.

FIAT MULTIPLA

EARNING top marks with the motoring press for originality when it arrived in 2000, the original Multipla proved simply too wacky looking to generate the sales it deserved. A facelift made it more visually acceptable and its practical qualities began to shine. Relatively compact, it allows six to be seated comfortably and there is plenty of stowage space.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★☆
Reliability	★★★☆☆
Quality	★★★☆☆

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

NO apologies for including the Picasso – it quickly trumped Renault's pioneering Scenic to become the best-seller in the new sector. It's only a five-seater, but the 'jelly mould design' smoothes the edges of a commodious and flexibly equipped box. The range features excellent turbodiesels and has a good reliability record. Plenty of choice on the used market too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★☆☆
Reliability	★★★★☆
Quality	★★★☆☆

HONDA FR-V

THOUGH late into this sector, Honda had time to review the market and decided that Fiat got it right with the Multipla. So the FR-V is another short, wide six-seater with two rows of seats, but not as roomy as the Fiat. Buyers like the peace of mind Honda's engineering gives and how the dash-mounted gearshift creates room in front.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★☆☆
Looks and image	★★★☆☆
Space	★★★★☆
Value	★★★☆☆
Running costs	★★★☆☆
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★☆

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Lineage
Approx. 20 words

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3x1
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Plate	Model	Engine	Mileage	Colour
FABIA				
GK55XKL	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	14582	DYNAMIC BLUE
GK03LVL	FABIA COMFORT 5DR HATCH	1.4 16V AUTO (PETROL)	14710	ADMIRAL BLUE
GL54HYC	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.4 16V 100BHP (PETROL)	14290	SATIN GREY
GX02VOY	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 MPI (PETROL)	70334	STONE GREY
GN03XJD	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 MPI (PETROL)	14864	DIAMOND SILVER
CV06AFU	FABIA VRS 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 130BHP (DIESEL)	40318	BLACK MAGIC
GJ57WCE	FABIA 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	6581	TANGERINE ORANGE
GJ08YLU	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	6242	STORM BLUE
KS57EHD	FABIA 2 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80BHP (DIESEL)	5874	SATIN GREY
GJ08VBE	FABIA 3 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80BHP (DIESEL)	7687	FLAMENCO RED
WP05KTX	FABIA CLASSIC 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	14706	DIAMOND SILVER
GJ55OVP	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	19902	DIAMOND SILVER
GF55UKC	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 64BHP (PETROL)	23600	GRAPHITE GREY
GJ05WYV	FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.9 TDI100BHP (DIESEL)	36801	GRAPHITE GREY
Y506TKM	FABIA ELEGANCE 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16V 100BHP (PETROL)	65220	DIAMOND SILVER
GL08DDY	FABIA 1 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12V 70BHP (PETROL)	3845	STORM BLUE
GJ08VBF	FABIA 2 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16V85BHP (PETROL)	TBA	STORM BLUE
ROOMSTER				
GJ08VBK	ROOMSTER 2 5DR MPV	1.6 16V105BHP (PETROL)	7032	OLIVE GREEN
GJ08YLR	ROOMSTER SCOUT 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	2386	POLAR BLUE
OCTAVIA				
GF56DXZ	OCTAVIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.6 16V 115BHP (PETROL)	27221	CORRIDA RED
GL07TTY	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	12828	CORRIDA RED
GL07CFV	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	14006	BLACK MAGIC
GL07CFJ	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI DSG 105BHP (DIESEL)	13396	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE
KS57EEA	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	10585	BRILLIANT SILVER
GJ08VAU	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	5505	SATIN GREY
KS54HHX	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	35951	GRAPHITE GREY
GL57YKV	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105BHP (DIESEL)	3501	SATIN GREY
HT54LSV	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	92398	STORM BLUE
GK08ZNX	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	4807	BLACK MAGIC
GK05OJY	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	1.8 20V TURBO 180BHP (PETROL)	32082	DIAMOND SILVER
GF57HKO	OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDI 170BHP (DIESEL)	3751	CORRIDA RED
LT52SNN	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.6 MPI (PETROL)	39486	DIAMOND SILVER
GJ08VAV	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDI DSG 140BHP (DIESEL)	6046	STORM BLUE
GL08XRC	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 FSI AUTO 150BHP (PETROL)	TBA	ISLAND GREEN
GJ08YLX	OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDI DSG 140BHP (DIESEL)	TBA	BRILLIANT SILVER
SUPERB				
OU03OPF	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	2.8 V6 (PETROL)	54292	SAHARA BEIGE
GJ55OUX	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	1.9 TDI130BHP	21822	SAHARA BEIGE
KV57BVX	SUPERB ELEGANCE 4DR SALOON	2.0 TDI 140BHP (DIESEL)	11277	BLACK MAGIC

All prices will be revealed on site at 8.00am on Monday 8th December

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Email **graham@kentyouth.org** for a candidate pack.

Closing Date: 8th Dec 08 **Interviews:** 15th Dec 08

For an informal discussion, please call Graham Clewes on 01634 281841

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We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to strengthen the teams already in place at the RSME as the 30 year contract transitions to the Colleges management team.

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For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date 31st January 2009

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If this sounds like the right role for you – get in touch now

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Band: 2
Hours: 3.5
Location: Chatham
Ref: 767-ECS644
Closing date: 04/12/08

Job Title: Secretary to Head of IM&T
Salary: £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 37.5
Location: Trinity House, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH228
Closing date: 05/12/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTERED

Job Title: Community Health Nurse
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH226
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Community Health Nurse (School Nursing)
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 30
Location: Dover Health Centre
Ref: 767-ASH227
Closing date: 05/12/08

Job Title: Staff Nurse
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Faversham Cottage Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH229
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Nurse Practitioner MIU
Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sheppey Community Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH230
Closing date: 06/12/08

Job Title: Clinical Nurse Specialist x 3
Salary: £29,091 - £38,385
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Protea House, Dover
Ref: 767-ECC645
Closing date: 11/12/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Job Title: Highly Specialist Obesity Dietitian
Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Sittingbourne Research Centre
Ref: 767-ASH191
Closing date: 03/12/08

Job Title: Prescribing Project Dietitian
Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: William Harvey Hospital, Ashford
Ref: 767-ASH232
Closing date: 08/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: QVMH, Herne Bay & Local Primary Schools, Thanet
Ref: 767-ECC637
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Language Unit & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Laleham Gap School & Canterbury Health Centre
Ref: 767-ECC638
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Thanet Schools Team)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC635
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team & Early Years)
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Whitstable Health Centre & Local Primary Schools
Ref: 767-ECC639
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Mill Lane House, Margate
Ref: 767-ECC634
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Schools Team)
Salary: £29,091 - £38,352
Band: 7
Hours: 26.25
Location: Canterbury & Faversham Schools
Ref: 767-ECC631
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (Early Years)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 18.75
Location: Seashells Children's Centre, Sheerness
Ref: 767-ECC632
Closing date: 16/12/08

Job Title: Specialist Speech & Language Therapist (ASD/Secondary School Service)
Salary: £24,103 - £32,653
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Spring Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury
Ref: 767-ECC633
Closing date: 16/12/08

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SERVICES

Job Title: Healthcare Assistant
Salary: £12,922 to £15,950 pa
Band: 2
Hours: 30
Location: Faversham Cottage Hospital
Ref: 767-ASH231
Closing date: 08/12/08

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk or call 01227 866450. We are an equal opportunities employer Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED

Hours: 8.30am - 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks)
Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,288 - £20,061 pro rata per annum)

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure.

The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342

Closing Date: Friday 12th December 2008
Interviews: Week beginning 15th December 2008

achievement for all

A2 CABS LTD
Full & Part Time
TAXI DRIVER'S
Required
Please contact
Elaine
01795 431500

BROAD BAR

Bar & Waiting Staff Required

We are looking for fun and energetic staff for our new venue in **Ramsgate.**
Previous experience is not essential
Full and Part Time positions available
Please contact **Steve** on **07792 676174**

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The smart way to find a job in the County

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INDUSTRIAL

Recruiting for GENERAL OPERATIVES

Warehouse Staff / Factory Operatives / Forklift Drivers / Refuse Loaders / Waste Operatives

Opportunities throughout Kent
Recruitment Office
01303 851133

www.redeagle.jobs

New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering

Support Opportunities

Mid Kent College (MKC) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

Facilities Manager Circa £38,000 – to take full responsibility for the buildings & infrastructure (including workshops and classrooms) occupied by MKC Training Services on site at the RSME. Experience of the management of Electro/Mechanical services essential.

Workshop Assistant £19,008 - £21,000 – to provide practical support within the Fitter Department, assisting with the smooth running of the stores, light maintenance duties and the movement of equipment. Would suit someone with a mechanical background and a current Fork Lift licence.

ICT Site Engineer £19,736 - £25,441 – to provide support and maintenance in response to "logged" fault calls. Must be familiar with the configuration and use of all Microsoft desk top operating systems and experienced with configuring and installing computer hardware/ancillary components.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and/or experience relevant for these posts, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)
For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: **Ken Pullan on 07725128661**

Closing Date 5th December 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MKC Training Services is an equal opportunity employer

MKC Training Services Limited

Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills **Ref 08/73**
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Staff benefits include:

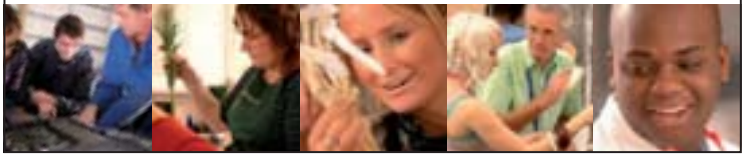
- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to Town Centre

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th December 2008 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies
CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

uropean Union
uropean Social Fund
vesting in jobs and skills



Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty A Levels, Science & Humanities **Ref 06/103**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £42,128 per annum

Lecturer Early Years **Ref 08/40**
2 posts at 37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Temporary Lecturer Performing Arts and Contemporary Dance **Ref 08/152**
27.75 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.
Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed one year

Supply Lecturer HE Business Enterprise and General Management to teach on HNC/FD and BA programmes. **Ref S/HE/BE**
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.
Applicants must hold a first degree in any discipline

Supply Lecturers
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

- **Dental Nursing** **Ref S/DN**
- **Information, Advice and Guidance** **Ref S/IAG**
- **Mental Health** **Ref S/MH**
- **Midwifery** **Ref S/MID**
- **Catering and Hospitality** **Ref S/C&H**
- **Key Skills Application of Number within Animal Care** **Ref S/KSAC**
- **Early Years to teach BTEC First Diploma in Child Care, Learning and Development** **Ref S/EY**

Supply Trainer Demonstrators **Ref S/TD/ME**
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Machining (turning and milling)**
- **Fabrication and Welding**

Network Applications Technician (Advanced) **Ref ATA**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £21,440 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering **Ref TD8**
2 posts at 18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering **Ref 08/153**
9.25 hours per week, salary starting from 18,963 pro rata per annum

Skills for Life Initial Assessor **Ref 08/154**
18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Cleaning Coordinator **Ref CLC1**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £16,914 per annum.
4 week shift pattern – 3 weeks nights and 1 week of days

Assistant Cleaning Coordinator **Ref ACC1**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum (nights)

Supply NVQ Assessors in Early Years **Ref S/ASS/EY**
Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Staff benefits include:

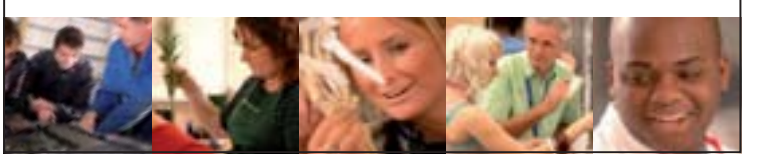
- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

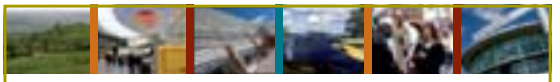
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th December 2008 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies
CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills





Managing Director's Personal Assistant

Ashford's Future. Salary £29,000 p.a.

Ashford is one of the Government's major growth areas in the south-east and is set to double in size by 2031 with around 31,000 new homes. Ashford's Future is a new company set up to support that agenda, helping to deliver key projects and high quality developments where the community will have access to a wide range of community facilities and good transport links.

Our Managing Director is looking for an experienced Personal Assistant with a meticulous approach who is used to exercising confidentiality and diplomacy.

You will be a good communicator, capable of working on your own initiative. You should have experience of managing diaries, maintaining records as well as arranging and assisting at meetings, responding to correspondence, dealing with telephone calls and enquiries, as well as experience of preparing agendas for meetings. You will also be responsible for receiving visitors and dealing with all enquiries about Ashford's Future at first point of contact.

For an informal discussion please contact Judith Armitt on 01233 330811.

Alternatively for an application form and further details, please send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to:

Personnel and Development, Civic Centre,Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

or e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

Closing date: 5 December 2008.

www.ashfordbestplaced.co.uk/jobs

Ashford
best placed in Britain

The Towers School

Faversham Road, Kennington
Ashford, Kent TN24 9AL
Tel: 01233 634171 • Fax: 01233 628326
Email: admin@towers.kent.sch.uk

11 – 19 Kent High School
1400 Students on roll (320 in 6th Form)

Teacher of Mathematics

(Full or Part-Time) • required as soon as possible
MPS + TLR 2a (£5,921)

Ofsted in May 2008 described Towers as a 'good school', and this is a key post in the future development of the school as we strive towards 'outstanding'. We are a successful Business and Enterprise specialist school, with Full Service Extended School status, and with one of the largest Sixth Forms in the County.

We are looking to recruit an additional Mathematics Teacher to join this strong and supportive department. The successful candidate will work with the Lead Teacher focussing on students that are predicted to achieve C/D at the end of Key Stage 4. The school has made significant gains in Math's outcomes in the last 3 years and this post will help achieve 50% + this year.

Applications are by CV and covering letter by email on admin@towers.kent.sch.uk , fax on 01233 628326 or post. Please mark for the attention of Mrs Kyla Weeden. All applications should be received by Wednesday, 26th November 2008. Interviews will be held the following week.

Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB
Tele: 01843 593326 – www.marloweacademy.co.uk

We are looking for candidates who are emotionally literate, committed to inclusion and willing to learn, to be part of the following teams:

Year 8/9

Key roles will include supporting students in completing study work, classroom support and as a Learning Mentor, meeting with students on a regular basis to confirm their progress and achievement, and to provide individual support as appropriate.

Science

Key roles to help support our exciting range of Science courses across KS3/4, supporting whole classes and individual students during practical and theoretical lessons and as a Learning Mentor. Experience of working within a school would be advantageous but an interest in Science is essential.

6th Form

Key roles will include supporting students in Years 11-14 in completing study work, classroom support and as a Learning Mentor, meeting with students on a regular basis to confirm their progress and achievement, and to provide individual support as appropriate.

We are looking for people who can take initiative and work both independently and as part of a team. All applications are welcome. Salary equivalent pt 8-12 on Kent Scheme. 14K pro rata for 40 hours a week term time only. The successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Please send a copy of your CV and covering letter to our HR Department at Jennifer spooner@marloweacademy.co.uk or our address as above
Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Jennifer Spooner on
direct telephone no: 01843 598550 or email to address above.
We look forward to hearing from you.
The closing date for post: Thursday, 11th December 2008

BeneCare Fostering

OFSTED REGISTERED

Can you provide a safe and caring home for vulnerable children? We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information. Full training and support provided in addition to excellent rates of pay.

For details please contact 01732 746697
info@benecarefostering.co.uk
www.benecarefostering.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Ursuline College

225 Canterbury Road
Westgate-on-Sea
Kent CT8 8LX
Phone 01843 834431 Fax 01843 835365
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Specialist Sports College

Roman Catholic Co-educational Voluntary Aided Comprehensive 780 on roll

Required immediately

Technology Technician

30 hours per week, Term Time only (38 weeks per year)
Kent Scheme Payscale 3, Points 7-11
(Hourly rate £7.23-£8.20)

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic Technician to support the teaching of Resistant Materials, Textiles, and Food Technology. Our ideal candidate will be someone who can be flexible and adaptable in their approach to work, is able to use their own initiative and who enjoys working with young people as part of a team. No previous experience is necessary as full training will be given.

Duties are varied and include:

- Supporting students' learning in the classroom
- Collation and preparation of subject materials
- Preparation of classroom displays
- Maintenance of well equipped practical classrooms

The successful candidate will be required to undertake a CRB Enhanced Disclosure check prior to the start of employment.

Please apply in writing for an application pack at the above address to Mrs Bridget Harvey, Head of Technology, or via email to: recruitment@ursuline.org.uk
Closing date: Wednesday 10th December 2008
Ursuline College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff/volunteers to share this commitment.

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County

The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people affected by autism. We provide a wide range of advice, information, support and specialist services to 100,000 people each year, and campaign and lobby positive change for the half a million people in the UK with autism.

Lead Teacher and Head of Further Education Department

Helen Allison School

Longfield Road, Meopham, Kent DA13 0EW

LS3 – 11

Required January 09 or asap

Helen Allison School is an independent school that provides specialist education and care for 70 children and young people with an autistic spectrum disorder aged 5-19 years. We have a residential provision that caters for 29 students on a 38 week basis.

We are looking for a qualified teacher with experience of teaching children with autism and Asperger syndrome. You will have responsibility for the management and curriculum of our current off-site Further Education Department. A new Further Education premises is in the process of being planned and you will be involved with this exciting development. In addition you will promote best practice through monitoring the teaching, learning and assessment throughout the school.

This is an excellent opportunity if you are keen to meet new challenges as part of our senior leadership team. In return for your commitment, we will give you all the support and encouragement you need to develop. You will also benefit from a significant training and resource budget.

For further information, visits or an informal discussion please contact Rosie Williams, Deputy Principal Education on 01474 814878 or email helenallison@nas.org.uk

Closing date: 12.00 Midday Monday 15 December 2008

Applications are sought from all suitably qualified sections of the community but particularly welcome from those with a diagnosis of autism or Asperger syndrome.

Please note: this post requires us to ask about the successful applicant's criminal record/s and proceed with an Enhanced Disclosure application. You will also be required to complete a Health Management Pre-Employment Health Questionnaire.

Committed to Equal Opportunities & Investors in People

Registered Charity No 269425

www.autism.org.uk/jobs

Your autism charity

Committed to Equal Opportunities & Investors in People.
Registered Charity No. 269425

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
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13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
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Effective from June 2008

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus on staff welfare pays off for holiday park

KEEPING its staff as happy as its customers has won Ashcroft Coast Holiday Park, near Leysdown, the national Investors in People award.

The title provides a framework for improving performance and competitiveness through training and development.

Gary Cook, general manager, said: "As part of our parent company, Park Resorts, we already had good practices in place, including training courses and a mystery shopper scheme.

"Since we started working with Investors in People I now hold weekly heads-of-department meetings and they in turn have their own team meetings.

"We also have 'Ten on Ten' daily, a ten-minute get-together to discuss any issues arising and which helps boost morale."

Marketing on the menu at breakfast meetings

A SERIES of business breakfasts offering practical marketing help and advice has been organised by the Kent branch of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM).

Using professional marketers and aimed at the county's small and medium sized businesses (SMEs), Simply Better Marketing will help people make the most of marketing resources.

The first three events will offer businesses simple marketing advice. They will be run in conjunction with Business Link and hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University at Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown.

They are on February 25, March 25 and April 30. The Kent Branch of the CIM has more than 1,000 members.

For details, visit www.cim.co.uk.

Buy local to boost county economy this Christmas

PRODUCED IN KENT, the champion of food and drink producers across the county, is hoping more people than ever will take a trip to their local farm shops, independent retailers and farmers' markets when getting ready for Christmas.

Many families will be looking for ways to save money this year and it is also a time when local producers can compete with supermarkets in terms of seasonal staples.

Market research has shown that every £10 spent on local produce is worth £25 to the Kent economy, compared with only £14 when it's spent in a supermarket.

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Banks' turn to help firms out of bad debt

BANKS had better pull out their fingers and start lending at sensible levels to struggling businesses.

The stiff verdict comes after the news that more than half of UK accountants reckon bad debts are one of the biggest worries for bosses.

Research by invoice and asset-based lender Venture Finance shows the knock-on domino effect of lack of cash, leading to late payments among firms along the chain, is unsurprisingly having a major impact.

Up to now, lack of liquidity – ready day-to-day cash – in the general banking market has already meant companies face difficulties when trying to re-finance – resulting in businesses of all sizes experiencing more and more late payments and bad debt.

Available

In Chancellor Alistair Darling's pre-Budget report last week the Government agreed a whopping £4 billion deal with the European Investment Bank for banks to pass on, and seven UK banks have already asked to be part of the action, and could be making money available by the end of the year.

There is also the credit worth £1bn to small firms which will be offered by the Government via a temporary Small Business Finance Scheme, and Mr Darling said from January that there will be short-term working capital help to small exporters to the tune of another £1bn.

Venture, which has a regional office in Canterbury covering the whole county, says that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) feel threatened by forecasts that the number of business failures between 2007 and 2009 is expected to increase by 18 per cent.

BY **TONY PATEY**

But scores of businesses have no bad debt protection in place, often, it says, a result of having misplaced confidence in their customers.

Just one in five of accountants surveyed had business clients currently using protection services.

Dangerous

Tim Bourner, Venture's Canterbury business development manager, said: "The misguided assumption that 'it will never happen to me' is very dangerous, especially in these uncertain times.

"It is predicted that insolvency levels will continue to rise throughout this year and next, surpassing even those of the dot.com bubble burst in 2002, which saw almost 20,000 business fail, and the subsequent ripples will be far-reached.

"It is encouraging, however, to see that accountants recognise the value of bad debt protection – perhaps because they have witnessed the consequences of businesses not doing so in the past."

Bad debt protection gives full cover on invoices, providing small to medium enterprises peace of mind and sheltering business against unforeseen loss of income.

Especially for a young company, late payment and non-payment can have a significant effect on cashflow, causing huge financial strain and threatening business security.

BIG DEAL: The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling, announced a £7 billion package of measures for the county's businesses in his pre-Budget report last week

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Picture DAVID PARSONS

IN FORM: Gore Court's men (in blue) are top of their league going into the final game before the winter break

Touch of Glass keeps Court top

HOCKEY

Gore Court 1
West Hampstead 0

AARON Glass scored the only goal of the game to give injury-hit Gore Court a priceless win to stay top in Division Two of the South Hockey League.

It was Glass' 15th strike of the season and extended Court's unbeaten run to eight games, which kept them one point ahead of Wimbledon.

Court were missing captain Paul Surridge and centre-forward Greg Laurenson, forcing the Sittingbourne side into a reshuffle.

West Hampstead started the day in third position. They were happy to soak up the pressure from the home side and try to hit them on the break. Twice they broke through in the first half, but were denied by goalkeeper Andy Nellies.

Glass came closest for Court in a goalless first half, but his shot rebounded off an upright.

The tight game looked to be heading for stalemate, but with 15 minutes to go Glass found the roof of the net from a short corner to win the game.

Saturday marks the final round of fixtures before the winter break. Court will be hoping to maintain their lead as they travel to struggling Epsom.

The club's ladies are also well-placed and moved up to second in their division with a 4-2 win against Upminster.

Court enjoyed most of the play in the first half and deservedly led 2-0 at the break thanks to goals from Al Cox and Jenny Francis. They continued to dominate in the second half but Upminster grabbed a breakaway goal.

Susan Cox restored the two-goal cushion from a short corner, but again Upminster hit back to make it 3-2. The game was hanging in the balance briefly, before Rachel Lukehurst settled the nerves with a goal to seal the victory.

Court's final game before the break is a trip to Burnt Ash this weekend.

Sheerness finally end losing streak

SHEERNESS East picked up their first point of the season after a run of 11 consecutive defeats in the Kent County League Premier Division on Saturday.

East battled against the weather to secure an entertaining 3-3 draw at Snodland and finally get off the mark this season. However, the result has only cut the deficit to safety to eight points.

They will look to build on the point when they take on Bly Spartans this Saturday.

In Division One East AFC Sheppey maintained their second place in the league with a 2-1 win against struggling Oakwood.

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Catch-up with the action from Invicta Dynamos' game against Oxford City Stars

Norton march held in check by weather

NORTON Sports were forced to wait for a chance to break into the top ten in the Kent League as their trip to Tunbridge Wells was called off due to adverse weather conditions.

This Saturday Ben Taylor's side will host Slade Green. They will be aiming to get back on track after a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Beckenham Town, in their last league fixture two weeks ago.

Ironically, Norton's last victory was a 1-0 win at Slade Green. Taylor will be hoping his players can repeat the result.

A win for Norton could move them back into the top ten.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

Pictures IGOR KUPCO

INJURY LIST: Justin Luchford (left) says although Saturday's cancellation was frustrating, it means injured players like Lee Shearer have more time to recover from injury in time to play Erith on Saturday

Silver lining to the rain cloud after Town match is called off

FOOTBALL

BY **YOURSWALE REPORTER**

FAVERSHAM Town manager Justin Luchford confessed to feeling a mixture of disappointment and relief after his side's trip to Kent Premier Division leaders Holmesdale was called off on Saturday.

The Bromley-based side's Oakley Road ground was waterlogged and the game was officially postponed after a 10am pitch inspection, but with half a dozen players nursing injuries, Luchford saw a silver lining.

"I was as disappointed as the players when it was called off," Luchford told Yourswale. "We were on a bit of a mini-run, but realistically we had five or six players carrying injuries and we might have a better chance if we go there with a full squad."

Luchford is hopeful that the majority of his walking wounded will have healed in time for Saturday's fixture with Erith Town at Salters Lane.

"I'd like to think one or two of them will be back, like Kevin Readings and Dave Soutan, Lee Shearer and Dane Luchford, but Sean Hetterley is out for four to six weeks with broken ribs," he said.

Luchford believes an early goal could be crucial against Erith. "It's going to be one of our toughest home games of the season," he predicted. "They've just beaten Beckenham who are a good side, but we're quite strong at home and I think we need to get about them and score early on. The longer it goes on with the scores level, the more it'll suit them."

Due to the vagaries of the rule book governing the Kent Intermediate Cup, Town were unable to give any first-teamers a run out in the reserves' second round tie with Tonbridge.

Only players who have played less than 50 percent of first-team pictures are allowed to appear and though this allowed Dean Yorath to make an appearance, he had to be substituted after taking a whack on the shin – although Luchford hopes he will be fit to play against Erith.

The reserves were eventually beaten 3-0, despite holding Tonbridge for 80 minutes.

Sonny Miles finally broke the deadlock with a 25-yarder and Tonbridge added a second in the 88th-minute, before adding a third in stoppage time.

Weather puts dampener on Brickie boss's target

FOOTBALL

BY FRED ATKINS

GARY Abbott has set his Sittingbourne side a target of six points from their next two fixtures, as he looks to cash in on the games in hand the Brickies have over their Ryman Division 1 South rivals.

"I want to get in those play-offs and if that's going to happen we need to be winning games like these," he told Yourswale, looking ahead to Saturday's trip to mid-table Whyteleafe and Tuesday's visit to the division's bottom side Crowborough.

Abbott warned against reading too much into the latter side's league position.

He said: "There are no easy games in this league. Crowborough came here and got a 2-2 draw earlier this season."

Abbott planned to use Monday night's Isthmian League Cup tie at home to Whitstable to experiment with a new formation and give four or five players the chance to start.

"To be honest, my priority is the league," he admitted. "Don't get me wrong, I want to win the game, but it's so tight at the top of the table. We've got three games in hand on most of our rivals, so the priority has got to be to win those."

Abbott was therefore pleased that Joe Dowley was set to serve his one-game suspension against Whitstable, freeing him to play in the Whyteleafe game.

The Brickies were left frustrated by the weather for the second consecutive weekend, when Saturday's scheduled home fixture with Leatherhead was postponed after a 10am pitch inspection at Bourne Park – seven days after their trip to Dulwich Hamlet also bit the dust.

Abbott said the appalling weather had left them with no option but to postpone the game.

"There were puddles of water all over the pitch, so there was no way we could play," he said. "It would have required too much messing about to arrange training at that stage, so we just gave them the day off as we train on Mondays and Thursdays. It was a pain though – I didn't know what to do with myself!"

• For a report on Monday's cup tie, log onto www.yourswale.co.uk.

Picture IGOR KUPCO

DOUBLE HEADER: Sittingbourne boss Gary Abbott is hoping his Sittingbourne players can make up lost ground after two postponements

LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstonian	18	11	5	2	+22	38
2 Metropolitan Police	19	9	7	3	+12	34
3 Fleet Town	18	9	6	3	+17	33
4 Cray Wanderers	18	10	3	5	+14	33
5 Dulwich Hamlet (-3)	19	10	5	4	+15	32
6 Folkestone Invicta	19	8	6	5	+4	30
7 Merstham	17	9	3	5	+3	30
8 Worthing	16	8	5	3	+8	29
9 Walton & Hersham	19	8	5	6	+2	29
10 Godalming Town	18	8	4	6	+12	28
11 Sittingbourne	**16**	**8**	**2**	**6**	**0**	**26**
12 Ashford Town	19	5	9	5	+6	24
13 Eastbourne Town	19	7	3	9	+1	24
14 Leatherhead	16	7	3	6	-4	24
15 Whyteleafe	18	7	2	9	-4	23
16 Burgess Hill Town	18	5	5	8	-3	20
17 Chipstead	18	4	5	9	-19	17
18 Croydon Athletic	18	4	4	10	-8	16
19 Walton Casuals	19	4	4	11	-13	16
20 Corinthian-Casuals	19	3	5	11	-21	14
21 Whitstable Town	19	4	2	13	-25	14
22 Crowborough Ath	18	3	3	12	-19	12

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

1 Holmesdale	15	10	3	2	+16	33
2 Hythe Town	14	10	2	2	+18	32
3 Tunbridge Wells	13	10	0	3	+12	30
4 Herne Bay	14	8	1	5	+10	25
5 Faversham Town	**12**	**8**	**0**	**4**	**+23**	**24**
6 Deal Town	14	5	4	5	+2	19
7 Sevenoaks Town	14	5	4	5	0	19
8 Erith & Belvedere	10	6	1	3	-1	19
9 Greenwich Borough	13	6	1	6	-2	19
10 Erith Town	12	5	3	4	+5	18
11 Slade Green	15	5	3	7	-2	18
12 VCD Athletic	11	5	1	5	+11	16
13 Norton Sports	**12**	**5**	**1**	**6**	**-8**	**16**
14 Beckenham Town	15	4	2	9	-3	14
15 Croydon	11	4	1	6	-1	13
16 Lordswood	13	1	1	11	-21	4
17 Sporting Bengal Utd	14	0	0	14	-59	0

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South: Whyteleafe v Sittingbourn. Kent League Premier Division: Faversham Town v Erith Town, Norton Sports v Slade Green

Late change saves quartet from being caught in Mumbai horror

CRICKET

FOUR Kent cricketers in the England Performance Programme returned to the county on Friday after their tour of India was cancelled due to the terror attacks in Mumbai.

Joe Denly, Rob Key, Amjad Khan and Robbie Joseph were 500 miles away in Bangalore preparing for their first warm-up match when the attacks began last Wednesday.

It has emerged the Kent quartet could easily have been caught up in the chaos but for a late change in itinerary.

Former England captain Michael Vaughan, who was also in the EPP, wrote in his column with a national newspaper the original training camp for the squad was due to be Mumbai, but it was switched to Bangalore.

The team would have stayed in the Taj Mahal, one of the hotels where terrorists attacked.

The EPP squad were due to travel to Mumbai today, ahead of a fortnight spent training in the city which included a four-day game.

But due to the increased threat to security the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) took a decision to send the 15 players back home straight away, along with the main England squad. ECB managing director Hugh Morris said: "This is a tragic event and the players feel desperately sorry for all that are caught up in the events. They're very disturbed by it as we all are."

The news was a particular blow to paceman Khan, who had been called up into the squad for the games as cover for the injured Andrew Flintoff and Stuart Broad.

The team are expected to return to India for the two-match Test series next month, but it is unclear whether the EPP squad will join them.

Picture IGOR KUPCO

CLOSE SHAVE: Joe Denly and three of his county colleagues were due to be staying in Mumbai

RUGBY

THRILLING: Sittingourne won with last-gasp penalty

Hobson's choice works for Bourne

Sittingbourne 16 Vigo 9

A BRILLIANT piece of opportunism by flanker Matt Hobson snatched a thrillingly late victory for Sittingbourne on Saturday and kept them in the hunt for promotion from Kent 1.

With the scores locked at 9-9 and time running out, visitors Vigo looked to have secured a draw thanks to two second-half penalties, when they bundled Sittingbourne into touch on the Vigo 22.

All the visitors had to do was win the line-out and hoof the ball out of play, but Matt Fender intervened, allowing Hobson to sprint in at the corner.

A miserably wet day at the Grove produced some attritional rugby, but the visitors started the game on the front foot and kicked an early penalty to tke a 3-0 lead, after catching Sittingbourne offside.

It was the only period of the game in which Sittingbourne trailed as from the kick-off Vigo were penalised at the breakdown, allowing Scott Truss to make it 3-3.

Sittingbourne began to hit their stride, but the slippery conditions resulted in two dropped passes that cost the home side in try-scoring positions.

Yet flankers Hobson and Fender were tackling anything that moved and cleaning up all the loose ball on the floor and the Bourne were able to nullify anything Vigo threw at them.

With Paul Chambers marshalling things well from scrum half it seemed only a matter of time before Bourne would edge in front.

Repeated handling errors continued to haunt them, but two penalties from Truss gave them a healthy 9-3 lead at the break.

Vigo were a stiffer proposition in the second half but rarely looked like crossing the line, but two penalties pulled them level and looked to be enough for a draw, until Fender intervened.

Having troubled Vigo at the line-out all afternoon, Fender forced the visitors into a weak knock down.

Hobson, the man-of-the-match, gobbled up the bouncing ball and creamed into the corner to make it 14-9 and Truss's conversion secured a deserved victory.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on the loss of the club's scouting network

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